

IB Theory of Knowledge 2
Mrs. Kirk and Dr. Haupt
2011-12 Fall Syllabus

IB Theory of Knowledge is an interdisciplinary course that asks students to reflect on what they know and how they know it. Students engage in daily discussions, prepare presentations relevant to course content, and write regularly while keeping a journal of their work. Journals are checked on a rotating basis throughout the semester. In Theory of Knowledge 2, students continue to revise their extended essays and prescribed titles, submitting revisions regularly until both are completed and ready to mail to the IBO.

Resources :

Readings from philosophy, epistemology, ethics, politics, aesthetics, literature, and other relevant areas of knowledge reflected in the full IB Program

Girl with a Pearl Earring—Chevalier

The Norton Reader—Ed. Eastman

Theory of Knowledge: Course Companion—Dombrowski, Rotenberg, and Bick

Theory of Knowledge: Diploma Programme Guide—International Baccalaureate Organization

Theory of Knowledge for the IB Diploma—Richard van de Lagemaat

Selected film clips, films, art examples, and audio recordings

Field trips to museums and performances, as possible

| Week | Dates | Topic | Major Assignments |
|-------------|--------------|--|---|
| 1 | 8/29-9-2 | Overview of ToK Thinking Preview of History, Ethics and Art | Summer assignment—25 points |
| 2-4 | 9/5-9/23 | Human Sciences--Review History and Human Science What is History? | Extended Essay Checkpoint Writing Assignment #1—Problems of knowledge in history |
| 5-7 | 9/26-10/7 | Ethics and Knowledge/Politics and Ethics | EE Checkpoint Ethics paper |
| 8-10 | 10/10-10/28 | Arts and Knowledge/The Nature of Beauty/The Practice of Aesthetic Judgment | Prescribed Title rough drafts/edits Presentation on what constitutes “good” art |
| 11-16 | 10/31-12/9 | The Structure of Knowledge and Revisiting Areas of Knowledge | Prescribed Title Final Draft due 11/17 Formal Oral Presentation TK/Presentation Planning Document TK/Presentation Marking Form |
| 17-19 | 12/12-1/12 | Truth and Knowledge | Formal Oral Presentation cont. Final Draft of Extended Essay due 1/5 ToK Model of Knowledge due—Final Exam Grade |

Journals will be checked for credit each marking period—30 points

During November and December students will make individual oral presentations as their internal assessments for the course. Due dates will be assigned according to the topic chosen. At least one week before the presentation, the student needs to hand in a presentation planning document (TK/PPD). Directly after the student completes his/her presentation, he/she must hand in a presentation marking form (TK/PMF) to evaluate the presentation

The ToK Prescribed Title and the Extended Essay are required IB external assessments. The Formal Oral Presentation, the TK/PPD, and the TK/PMF are required IB internal assessments. All of these assessments must be completed for successful completion of the IB diploma.

Aims

The aims of the TOK course are to:

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavor, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting upon it
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed, by communities and individuals
- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Program, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings and actions
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants' own
- encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual as citizen of the world.

Objectives

Having followed the TOK course, students should be able to:

- analyze critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions and their implications
- generate questions, explanations, conjectures, hypotheses, alternative ideas and possible solutions in response to knowledge issues concerning areas of knowledge, ways of knowing and students' own experience as learners
- demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on knowledge issues
- draw links and make effective comparisons between different approaches to knowledge issues that derive from areas of knowledge, ways of knowing, theoretical positions and cultural values
- demonstrate an ability to give a personal, self-aware response to a knowledge issue
- formulate and communicate ideas clearly with due regard for accuracy and academic honesty.

Policies and Procedures:

Assessment Criteria:

Please see external and internal assessment criteria published by the IBO and distributed to students in rubrics that apply to written and oral work for the course, in addition to the grading policies noted below. Please see IBO Diploma Points Matrix for diploma points awarded for successful completion of the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge assessments. The external assessment for TOK is weighted at 40 points, applicable to the final IBO grade in TOK, while the internal assessment (the formal oral presentation and self-evaluation report) is weighted at 20 points. Students may continue to revise their prescribed title and Extended Essay until the deadlines set on our timeline.

Final marking period grades will be determined on a percentage basis:

A—90-100%

B—80-89%

C—70-79%

D—60-69%

E—0-59%

Approximate percentage category weight:

50%—Writing

25%—Presentations and oral activities

25%— Journals/Classwork

Late work will be graded up to one grade down if handed in between the due date and the final deadline.

Work handed in after the deadline will receive an E.

Students who miss class due to an unexcused absence will receive 50% credit for work and assessments completed from the class missed.

The following B–CC policies are consistent with the MCPS Grading and Reporting Policy as outlined in *Learning, Grading and Reporting Guidelines* (MCPS, 2004).

- Teachers will assign grades to reflect individual achievement on course objectives.
- Teachers will determine grades based on a variety of assessment methods.
- Teachers will issue progress reports at the 4½ week mark in each quarter.
- Teachers will establish clear due dates and deadlines. The maximum penalty for work submitted after the due date but before the deadline is one letter grade on an A-E scale or 10% on a 100% scale.

Teachers will record 50% as the lowest possible grade for work attempted except in cases of academic dishonesty.

Reteaching/Reassessing Policy:

Students will be allowed to be reassessed on assignments as determined by the IB ToK 2 team. Students will be informed ahead of time when an assignment may be reassessed. Only students who meet the deadline may be reassessed on an assignment. They must show evidence as determined by the teacher and team that they have made an attempt to relearn the material before taking the reassessment. Examples of that evidence include, but are not limited to:

- Coming to the teacher for extra help
- Attending TAP
- Completing practice assignments
- Making corrections on the original assessment/assignment.

Reassessment must be done in a timely fashion according to a schedule determined by the teacher and team. The reassessed grade will replace the original grade.