

Theory of Knowledge 2020 Syllabus

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Course Description: TOK provides opportunities for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge - the areas of knowledge and the ways of knowing. Students think about how knowledge is arrived at in the various disciplines and examines the similarities and differences between them in order to address the fundamental question of TOK - “How do we know that?” In this course, students will try to make sense of the world and understand their relationship to it. They will become aware of their own perspectives and explore both the personal and shared aspects of knowledge.

TOK is a course in critical thinking but one that is specifically geared towards an approach to knowledge that is mindful of the interconnectedness of the modern world. It is a challenging course but one that is an essential component not only for the Diploma Program but of lifelong learning.

Course Objectives:

- Develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed and examined
- Make connections between the construction of knowledge, the academic disciplines and the wider world
- Develop and interest in the diversity and richness of cultural perspectives and awareness of personal and ideological assumptions
- Critically reflect on personal beliefs and assumptions leading to more thoughtful, responsible and purposeful lives
- Understand that knowledge brings responsibility which leads to commitment and action

Units/Topics: The units we will study in class include the following Areas of Knowledge:

The Arts
Ethics
Indigenous Knowledge Systems
Natural Sciences

Human Sciences
Mathematics
History
Religious Knowledge Systems

Throughout every unit, we will examine the 8 Ways of Knowing - sense perception, memory, reason, language, emotion, faith, imagination and intuition.

Texts/Resources: A variety of texts will be used throughout the course including the Kognity online textbook, academic journals, books, film, music, poetry, etc. Students will need to come to class everyday with a notebook, folder, personal journal and pen/pencil.

Grading:

- [RHS 8 point grading scale](#) used in formative assessments.
- IB Assessment Criteria used in summative assessments.
- 60 formative/40 summative grade breakdown
- 2-1-0 homework checks & other smaller assignments (mostly for completion or practice, not measurement or growth per se) 2= complete; 1= partially; 0= incomplete
- All Summative assessments are required to pass the class.

Due Dates:

Assignments are due at the end of the week. Students are expected to ask for an extension if unable to meet the deadline.

Attendance (district policy)

- Attendance must be taken and recorded based on a teacher's direct interaction with the student during the class period.
- There will be two codes to select from: DL - Distance Learning and U - Unexcused. DL will be used when attendance or participation has been verified; U will be used when a teacher has not been able to contact a student and is unable to verify participation in learning.
- Teachers can go back five days to update attendance.
 - this interaction could be participation in a video class or chat
 - a phone call with the student
 - posting completed coursework to the learning management system
 - turning in completed coursework on a given day along with a record of teacher contact, e.g., phone call, text message exchange, etc.
 - Students for whom no teacher has direct interaction on a given day are reported as absent for that day.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Students engaged in dishonesty will be penalized on the assignment, may be given the opportunity to resubmit the assignment for credit, and they will be reported to their dean for disciplinary action and Administration if applicable.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating on assignments or tests
- plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another)
- submitting the same or substantially similar papers or creative work for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned.
- depriving another of necessary course materials
- sabotaging another's work
- colluding to support malpractice by another student
- To avoid plagiarism, words and ideas used to support one's argument **MUST** be acknowledged in all journals, papers and presentations.

In our class, you are required to use MLA or Chicago citation style. Passages that are quoted verbatim must be enclosed within quotation marks and the author must be acknowledged. Electronic media (websites, etc.) must be treated the same way as books and journals, and the sources of all photographs, maps, illustrations, etc. must also be acknowledged if not your own work.

My goal is to facilitate a student centered class. In order for that to happen, we all need to work together to create a positive, respectful, collaborative community. I look forward to working with you and please contact me at any time with questions, concerns or assistance.