Theory of Knowledge 12 Syllabus

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**The International Baccalaureate program is designed for students who are mature and highly motivated. Theory of knowledge is an interdisciplinary course that encourages students to think about what they know and how they know it. Students must be prepared to challenge their personal beliefs daily through discussions, writing, and presentations. The overall goal of Theory of Knowledge is to shape students into open-minded, critical thinkers who are open to challenging their own views as well as others.**

What am I going to learn?

The overall aim of TOK is to encourage students to formulate answers to the question “how do we know?” in a variety of contexts, and to see the value of that question. TOK takes an inter-disciplinary approach to the questions of knowledge and knowing.

Specifically, the **aims** of the TOK course are:

* To encourage students to reflect on the central question, “How do we know that?”, and to recognize the value of asking that question.
* To expose students to ambiguity, uncertainty and questions with multiple possible answers.
* To equip students to effectively navigate and make sense of the world, and help prepare them to encounter novel and complex situations.
* To encourage students to be more aware of their own perspectives and to reflect critically on their own beliefs and assumptions.
* To engage students with multiple perspectives, foster open mindedness and develop intercultural understanding.
* To encourage students to make connections between academic disciplines by exploring underlying concepts and by identifying similarities and differences in the methods of inquiry used in different areas of knowledge.
* To prompt students to consider the importance of values, responsibilities and ethical concerns relating to the production, acquisition, application and communication of knowledge.

**Students are expected to work on their own or in small groups. Students are expected to listen and share ideas. Students are expected to think about concepts from a local and global perspective.**

Course Breakdown for TOK 11

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Detail | Dates |
| Core Theme | Review | September |
| Areas of Knowledge | Natural Sciences | September |
| Areas of Knowledge | History | October |
| Assessment | Unpacking Essay Topics | November |
| Assessment | Writing of TOK Essay | January |

**Classroom Expectations**

**1. Arrive on time and prepared to work.**

**2. Participate fully and positively.**

* + Maintain an open mind and a positive attitude. Be ready to listen, learn and share your ideas.
  + You will be expected to participate by working individually and with others.

**3. Always put in your best effort**

* ***All*** assignments, large or small, are important and will “count”.

**4. Show courtesy and respect at all times.**

* **RESPECT** yourself, your teachers and your classmates
* Listen actively to whomever is speaking – another student, me, the announcements, etc. We all have the right to be heard and therefore it is imperative that we do not call out over others.

**5. Electronic Devices**

* Cell/Smart Phones: Not necessary during class time. These devices are scientifically proven to be a detrimental distraction to one’s attention which negatively affects one’s ability to focus on learning.
* Music players must be off prior to entering my classroom. Ear buds removed etc.

**5. Don’t be absent! But if you are…don’t be absent!**

* It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed

**6. You are responsible for your own learning…and I am here to help!**

* I am available for questions, discussions, complaints, etc. – drop by or make an appointment.

Learning Strategies

Class activities will consist of individual and structured group work, interactive discussion, reflective journaling, online activities, inquiry-based problem solving, research and investigation, etc. There is an expectation of at least one hour of remote learning and activities to support your progress.

Assessment

**Assessment Objectives**

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

* demonstrate TOK thinking through the critical examination of knowledge questions
* identify and explore links between knowledge questions and the world around us
* identify and explore links between knowledge questions and areas of knowledge
* develop relevant, clear and coherent arguments
* use examples and evidence effectively to support a discussion
* demonstrate awareness and evaluation of different points of view
* consider the implications of arguments and conclusions

**Theory of knowledge grade descriptors**

Grade A

Knowledge questions are thoroughly explored and clearly related to examples/real-life situations. Effective links are made to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing. Analysis is coherent, and well developed. The discussion includes consideration of implications, assumptions, counterclaims and different perspectives.

Grade B

Knowledge questions are explored and related to examples/real-life situations. Links are made to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing. Analysis is developed. The discussion identifies some implications and/or assumptions, and includes some consideration of counterclaims and/or different perspectives.

Grade C

Knowledge questions are considered and related to examples/real-life situations, although these may not always be appropriate. Some links are made to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing. Analysis is developed to a limited extent. The discussion is more descriptive than analytical, and counterclaims and different perspectives are identified but not explored.

Grade D

There is little consideration of knowledge questions related to examples/real-life situations. Superficial links are made to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing. Analysis is not offered, or lacks coherence.

The discussion is simplistic and mainly descriptive. There is minimal reference to counterclaims or different perspectives.

Grade E

There is no consideration of knowledge questions. Few, if any, references are made to areas of knowledge or ways of knowing. The discussion is simplistic and descriptive. Counterclaims or different perspectives are not identified.

**IB Assessment**

The assessment model of TOK has two components that must be completed to earn a grade and to earn the Diploma.

**Internal Assessment:** This was completed in the Grade 11 year.

**Theory of knowledge exhibition** – 10 marks (33% of final mark)

*For this component, students were required to create an exhibition that explores how TOK manifests in the world around us. This component was internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.*

**External Assessment:** to be completed in January, 2024.

**Essay**– 10 marks (67% of final mark)

For this component, students are required to write an essay in response to one of the six prescribed titles that are issued by the IB for each examination session. As an external assessment component, it is marked by IB examiners.

