

**Overview:** What is TOK?**Starting points:**

**This course explores the Nature of Knowledge.**

- ❖ The process of this course is a critical reflection on what the students claim to know and what others agree to be knowledge.
- ❖ In TOK there may not be a right or wrong answer, but there are standards for judgment and defense of knowledge claims.
- ❖ In TOK we will make connections between the construction of knowledge, the academic disciplines and the wider world.

In the TOK class students will explore the connections, similarities and links between different subject areas and between different ways of knowing. One of the most valuable resources for this class is you and your own experiences, and knowledge. We will investigate and explore many different areas of knowledge and make connections between your personal experiences in and out of school, classical philosophical questions, and current and global issues by considering different perspectives on knowledge.



### **What is my grade based on?**

We will normally have 1 assignment a week, as well as occasional in-class assignments. Each assignment is worth a number of points. All grades will be based on points. For the projects related to the external and internal assessments you will receive class grades. At the end of the grading period all of your points are added up and your percentage of the possible points will determine your letter grade. Class participation is a very important part of your grade.

Participation Your participation in the Theory of Knowledge class is especially crucial due to the nature of the class. It is important to share your ideas with others and to submit your ideas to evaluation by others and perhaps re-evaluation by you. If you are not participating in class, you will restrict your ability to expand your mind and the minds of those around you. Your participation grade will be based on teacher evaluation and will be calculated twice a semester (30 points). Part of your participation grade is being prepared for class with all necessary materials.

### Graded Discussions

Occasionally we will have a graded discussion on a specific theme or reading. This will have a round table discussion format of a Socratic seminar or Harkness discussion and will have the purpose of increasing your understanding of the text (15 points).

### Homework Readings and Notes

You will be given assigned reading from the TOK textbook or handout articles and be asked to take notes on the reading to bring to class to use for the in-class discussion. Notes will be checked for completion and thoroughness. (5-10 points). Notes that are incomplete will not receive full points.

### Written assignments

Usually once per unit you will be given a written assignment, which will be collected and graded. Each assignment is worth 20 points and must be submitted to Turnitin.com. A written response is generally 3 to 4 paragraphs. **Late Written Responses will lose points. For each day it is late you will lose 10% a day. Written Responses that are submitted after seven days will be worth 0 credit but you can still submit it for feedback. External and Internal Assessments will have a similar policy. For each day it is late you will lose 10% a day. Internal or External Assessments that are submitted after seven days will be worth a maximum of 50% credit.**

If you are absent see me regarding a due date for your make-up work. If you missed a class, but were in school later or earlier in the day, you must turn in your homework assignment on the day it is due or it will be considered late. **If you are absent one day and in school the next day, you are expected to see me before our class meets again, so that you will be prepared for class.**

Mock External Assessment - Essay - We will write a practice essay this year to prepare for the final assessment in your senior year. The essay should not be purely abstract, and the use of specifics and examples are encouraged. Essays are evaluated according to their treatment of knowledge questions, the quality of the connections made to the student's own experience as a learner, the awareness of the different ways of knowing and the linkages between these ways, areas of knowledge, use of examples, structure, clarity and logic, and finally, factual accuracy. The late policy outlined above is the same policy for essays. (30 points)

#### Mock Internal Assessment - Presentation

Students must make one individual or group presentation to the class during the course and complete planning document. The topic must be relevant to ToK and related to the chosen area of knowledge. Presentations may take many forms such as lectures, skits, simulations, games, dramatized readings, interviews or debates. Individual presentations should be approximately 10 minutes, not including class discussion. Group presentations should be approximately 20 minutes. In a group presentation not every student needs to speak for the same amount of time, but all students must contribute enough to allow the application of the assessment criteria to each student involved. If you are not ready on the day your presentation is scheduled, your presentation is considered late and you will lose 10 % a day until the presentation is given to the class. (30 points)

\*\*Initial Predicted grades will be based on these mock assessments.

#### Connections \*\*\* Extra Credit (up to +10)- Maximum one per semester -Last day to present May14

One of the goals of the ToK class is to make connections between different types of knowledge, as well as different academic subjects. In pursuit of this goal, students are asked to relate their discussions/readings/assignments in the Tok class with any of their other classes. If you are studying anything in any of your other classes that reminds you of a theme or discussion we have addressed, or might be addressing in the future, or you just think is really cool, bring it in and share it with the class. Sharing it with the class means bringing in a quote, assignment, or reading and explaining what you think might be the significance and/or connections to our pursuit of exploring knowledge.

#### **Classroom Guidelines**

- ❖ Be prepared! Come to class with your notebook, folder and handout readings every class period.
- ❖ You are responsible for all make-up work. If you are absent check the Moodle and when your return with me **before** class to see what work you have missed and to get any handouts that were distributed on the day you were absent.
- ❖ If you are absent but in school the next day, I expect for you to see me that day to be prepared for our next class.
- ❖ Respect. Respect your classmates, the classroom, and your teacher.