

Theory of Knowledge IBDP - Year 2

12th Grade Intl. [2 periods per week]

Mr. John Lamphear

Course Description

TOK proposes a unique epistemology in which Knowledge Claims are arrived at in a range of Areas of Knowledge through particular Ways of Knowing. Students learn to critically explore this process in order to explain how knowledge is acquired and to question the certitude of the knowledge that is arrived at thereby. Students are encouraged to address contemporary world issues by identifying the cognitive concerns upon which these issues arise, to compare the ways in which ideas may be derived in different academic fields or cultures, and to recognize and give credence to multiple viewpoints on the validity of Knowledge Claims. Ultimately, through TOK, students will become inquisitive thinkers who are capable of explaining in detail how ideas are developed and of critically addressing the validity of these ideas from multiple perspectives.

In Grade 12 TOK, students will learn to employ TOK concepts and terminology towards developing thoughtful, and balanced responses to Knowledge Questions in the form of the TOK Presentation and Essay. Students will become familiar with the standards by which their assessments will be evaluated by working with the TOK Presentation and Essay rubrics. Students will also become familiar with how to address the prompts (titles) for TOK Essays and how to best compose their TOK essays in order to ensure they will achieve their IB Diplomas.

Timeline

1. TOK Presentation - September
2. Paradigm Shifts and Knowledge Frameworks - October
3. TOK Essay Writing Skills - November
4. Practice TOK Essay - December
5. Selecting a Title and Drafting the TOK Essay - January
6. Revising and Submitting the Final Draft of the TOK Essay - February and March