



Theory of Knowledge

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

Palm Harbor University High School

Office Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:30-2:20pm

11th Grade Teacher: Mrs. Kate Tancrell

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Amazon Wishlist:



12th Grade Teacher: Mrs. Meredith Kluis

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Amazon Wishlist:



Course Description:

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is one of the core elements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program with Creativity, Service, Activity (CAS), and the Extended Essay (EE) completing the curriculum's core. The theory of knowledge aims to explore knowledge on a deeper level, intending to consider other perspectives while considering background. TOK hopes to foster international-mindedness and support the learner profile. This course aims to make connections to the construction of knowledge and the respective Areas of Knowledge (AoKs).



Syllabus and Course Policy

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to evaluate and analyze knowledge claims.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills.
- Students will understand the role of investigation into knowledge.
- Students will evaluate perspectives of knowledge systems.

Key Course Information:

- Theory of Knowledge is the only course that every student in the IB Programme in the world takes.
- TOK runs for two years during 11th grade and 12th grade.
- CAS and Extended Essay IB requirements are completed in Theory of Knowledge.

Materials:

- (1) Glue Stick (will need to be replaced throughout the year)
- (1) 2” 3-ring binder
- Filler paper for inside the binder
- (5) Binder Tabs
- Students will need access to Canvas and ManageBac for daily work. No Textbook is required for the course. All content-based materials will be provided for the students.
- Students are expected to have their laptop with them for class.

Teaching Methods:

- Theory of Knowledge relies on multiple methods of instruction including; lectures, classroom discussions, group projects, student-produced presentations, and classwork.

Topical Course Outline:

- Core Theme: Knowledge and the Knower
- Areas of Knowledge: Arts, Mathematics, History, Natural Sciences, Human Sciences
- Optional Themes: Knowledge and Technology, Knowledge and Language, Knowledge and Politics, Knowledge and Religion and Knowledge and Indigenous Societies.

Technology:

- Students will be using Naviance, Flipgrid, Microsoft Office, Remind, ManageBac, Nearpod, Lumino, and Canvas for engagement pieces.

IB Major Assessments:11th Grade:**TOK Exhibition:**

Students are required to create an exhibition of three objects with accompanying commentaries that explore how TOK manifests in the world around us. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course. This assessment is 1/3 of the student's IB TOK Grade.

Exhibition Presentations and Due Date: February 9th, 2023.

12th Grade:**TOK Essay:**

The Theory of Knowledge course requires all students to complete the TOK Essay. The essay is a formal summative assessment which accounts for 2/3 of the student's individual TOK essay grade. This assessment is completed in class during the Fall semester. The TOK essay is graded externally through IB.

Final Essay Due Date: December 5th, 2023.

11th and 12th Grade:**Extended Essay:**

The Extended Essay is an individual study completed by IB Juniors and Seniors. It is a required component of the IB Diploma. Students will complete an academic research paper on a topic of their choice. Many assignments within the TOK course will correlate with this assignment as the students are guided through the process. The research and writing process will start during junior year with the final draft of the assignment due on the first day of school senior year. Students receive an EE advisor whom they will work with closely during the writing process.

A formal Timeline with due dates will be given to students in November during the Junior year.

Course Policies:**PHUHS IB - Academic Honesty Policy:**

Educational malpractice is addressed in the IB Honor Code as follows:

“The International Baccalaureate Organization defines malpractice as behavior that results in, or may result in, the candidate or any other candidate gaining an unfair advantage...” and includes:

- Plagiarism – the representation of the ideas or work of another person as the candidate's own.

Syllabus and Course Policy

- Collusion – the supporting of malpractice by another candidate, as allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for another.
- Duplication of work – the presentation of the same work for different assignments
- Other malpractice offenses include: taking unauthorized materials into an exam, test, quiz, or other assessment situation.
- Engaging in misconduct during an exam, test, quiz, or any other assignment, including the photographing of any testing materials without the expressly given consent of the instructor.
- Falsifying any records.
- Copying, paraphrasing, reusing, or submitting another's work without acknowledging the source, including information from the Internet.
- Receiving or giving of any unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work.

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, including the misuse of artificial intelligence tools, is strictly prohibited in this course. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property as your own, without proper attribution. The misuse of artificial intelligence tools refers to using AI-generated content or solutions in lieu of your own understanding, effort or genuine engagement, which undermines the learning process and academic integrity.

Expectations and Guidelines:

Originality: All work submitted must be your original creation, reflecting your understanding, effort, and insights into the subject matter. If you use AI tools to assist in your work it should be for directional support and not the solution itself.

Attribution: If AI-generated external sources are utilized in your assignments, proper attribution, citation and acknowledgment must be provided, adhering to the guidelines specified by the assignment/course.

Critical Engagement: Assignments are designed to encourage your critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Relying solely on AI-generated content without active engagement, analysis, or interpretation of the material is considered a breach of academic integrity.

Acceptable match percentage: The academic consensus on acceptable match percentage through all plagiarism check tools (Turnitin, ai checker, etc.) for all student submissions is 15% (Sources: Teesside University, ResearchGate, FixGerald)

Consequences of Plagiarism and Misuse:

Engaging in plagiarism and/or the misuse of artificial intelligence tools will result in disciplinary actions, which include:

- One full letter grade reduction (from the original earned grade) for every 5% increment plagiarism match over 15%
(i.e. If the earned grade is B but the plagiarism match is 25%, the final grade is D)

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- Formal recording of plagiarism incident in Focus
- Formal recording of plagiarism incident in Focus and as a referral of the second offense

Do your best to embrace the learning process, seek help when needed, and engage with the course material and assignments thoughtfully and ethically. If you have questions about using AI tools or need guidance on proper attribution, consult with me before submitting your work.

The IB faculty is opposed to malpractice and cheating for several reasons:

- Cheating does not level the playing field. Cheating may result in a student receiving the same or a better grade than students who have honestly earned the grade. Such dishonesty could result in the cheater's grade point average and class rank to be unfairly inflated and thus negatively affecting other students' class rank.
- Cheating misrepresents to parents, colleges, and teachers a student's mastery of the subject.
- The time taken to monitor students for cheating causes a reduction in the time a teacher has to use for academic instruction.
- Students who are mature enough to select and qualify for a rigorous academic program should also be mature and committed enough to work for and accept the grades they earn.

Students who have questions regarding whether or not something constitutes plagiarism have a responsibility to consult with the teacher prior to submitting the work/assignment. Violations of the Honor Code “will also result in disciplinary or academic probation and ultimately may cause a student to be removed from the program.”

Missed Class:

Please know that attendance is a priority because TOK is a discussion-based class. Natural discussions and inquiry are essential to be able to recreate in your assessments. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher if a class has been missed. The teacher will make the lecture notes, resources, and activities available. Students will have 3 days to make-up missed assignments before the assignment(s) become late. In addition, students may choose to re-sit a class if necessary.

Late Work Policy:

All assignments will automatically receive a 10% deduction per day they are submitted late up to three days. After the third day, the assignment will become a permanent zero. **ALL CAS-related assignments are NOT accepted late.**

Syllabus and Course Policy

Grading:

Theory of Knowledge houses the TOK Exhibition, TOK Essay, and Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) within the course. To maintain progress on the IB requirements for the Exhibition, TOK Essay, and CAS assignments, grades should be expected. Assignments regarding the TOK IB Assessments will count for 10% of the TOK grade. The other 90% will come from the TOK course and CAS. This is divided into Major and Minor Assessment categories. Major assessments will count as 60% of the student's grade. This includes but is not limited to CAS, Harkness Discussions, Group Projects, Group presentations, and Research assignments. Minor assessments will count as 30% of the student's grade. This includes but is not limited to bell work, reflections, and general class work.

Submission for classroom work and homework will be due to Canvas or Managebac unless specified by the teacher.

Grading Scale:

100-90% = A

89-80%=B

79-70%=C

69-60%=D

59-0=F

Attendance Policy:

- Three missed sessions: The teacher is required to report the student to Mrs. Striblen, Assistant Principal. Fifth absence will result in an attendance conference with the student, parents, teachers, and assistant principal. Please note, per PCS Policy, that five total absences, amongst all classes, will result in the student's ineligibility to exempt exams.

Exam Policy:

Students who miss 5 days of any class forfeit their privilege to exempt term exams. Seniors will take ALL midterms.

Student Participation and Behavior:

- Students are expected to submit classwork, homework, and assessments on time and complete.
- Students are expected to engage in the lesson at least once during the class meeting. Examples: answer questions, give feedback, and bring innovative ideas to the conversation. This will count toward your class participation grade.
- Students are expected to be respectful of classmate's work, thoughts, and perspectives.
- Students are expected to use proper citations for any work submitted as their own (See academic honesty).

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Student Code of Conduct:

- Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct from Pinellas County Schools and Palm Harbor University High School, as well as PHUHS's International Baccalaureate Program's Student Code of Conduct.
 - **This includes that ALL technology (earbuds, tablets, cell phones and laptops) are storage away unless needed for classroom activity.**

Hall Passes:

- Students are required to have a hall pass with them when leaving the classroom as well as sign out on the clipboard in the back of the room. Students are required to return to class at the end of the period and sign back in on the clipboard.

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Parent Agreement Form: Please return to the TOK Teacher

Parent and Student Sign Off:

I have read the course syllabus and understand what is required of me as a responsible student.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

My student and I have reviewed and understand the course syllabus.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____