



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: Diploma Programme Theory of Knowledge	Teacher: Mr. Jonathan Dawson Email: jdawson@tisweb.net
Level: Grade 11 (21-22) Grade 12 (22-23)	Time Frame: 2 years
Course Description: <p>The TOK course provides students with an opportunity to explore and reflect on the nature of knowledge and the process of knowing. It is a core element of the DP to which schools are required to devote at least 100 hours of class time.</p> <p>In TOK, students reflect on the knowledge, beliefs and opinions that they have built up from their years of academic studies and their lives outside the classroom. The course is intended to be challenging and thought-provoking—as well as empowering—for students.</p> <p>The course centres on the exploration of knowledge questions, which are a key tool for both teachers and students. These are contestable questions about knowledge itself, such as: “What counts as good evidence for a claim?”, “Are some types of knowledge less open to interpretation than others?”, or “What constraints should there be on the pursuit of knowledge?”. While these questions may initially seem slightly intimidating, they become much more accessible when considered with reference to specific examples within the TOK course.</p>	
Course Aims: <p>The aims of the TOK course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 plausible 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.	

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Course Outline:

Course Elements:

Core theme: Knowledge and the knower

This theme provides an opportunity for students to reflect on themselves as knowers and thinkers, and on the different communities of knowers to which we belong.

Optional themes

Students are required to study **two** optional themes from the following five options.

- Knowledge and technology
- Knowledge and language
- Knowledge and politics
- Knowledge and religion
- Knowledge and indigenous societies

32 hours of teaching time

Areas of knowledge

Students are required to study the following five areas of knowledge.

- History
- The human sciences
- The natural sciences
- The arts
- Mathematics

50 hours of teaching time

Assessment

Students are required to complete two assessment tasks:

Internal Assessment

Weighting: 1/3 (33%)

Theory of knowledge exhibition (10 marks)

For this component, students are required to create an exhibition that explores 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.

External assessment

Weighting: 2/3 (67%)

Theory of knowledge essay on a prescribed title (10 marks)

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.

Resources:

Textbook: Oxford IB Diploma Programme: IB Theory of Knowledge Course Book

School Library that has a range of books that are available for students to borrow

Specimen paper & Past Paper from International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO)

Additional Resources: There are a range of online resources that are utilised during the course

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