



Sandia High School
2024-2025
IB Theory of Knowledge Course Syllabus



Teacher	Rita Martinez		
Email	rita.martinez@aps.edu	Phone	505-294-1511 ext. 30312
Class Period	5	Room	Math & Science 105
Credits Offered	0.5 credits/semester	Remind	@shsib-2025
Course Fee	\$0	Website	Mrs. Martinez's Website

Course Overview	
<p>The TOK course, a flagship element in the Diploma Program, encourages critical thinking about knowledge itself to try to help young people make sense of what they encounter. Its core content is questions like these: What counts as knowledge? How does it grow? What are its limits? Who owns knowledge? What is the value of knowledge? What are the implications of having or not having knowledge? The first semester of study in the TOK course will culminate in an internally assessed TOK exhibition. The second semester will culminate with a 1600-word TOK essay that answers a prompt presented by the IB.</p> <p>The extended essay will also be completed during the TOK course.</p>	
First Semester Topics/Course Sequence	Second Semester Topics/Course Sequence
Core Theme - Knowledge and the Knower Optional Themes -Knowledge & Technology -Knowledge & Language -Knowledge & Politics -Knowledge & Religion -Knowledge & Indigenous Societies IB Assessment - TOK Exhibition	Areas of Knowledge - History - Human Sciences - Natural Sciences - Mathematics - The Arts IB Assessment - TOK Essay
Required Course Materials	
<p>Students should come to class with the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Chromebook & charger2. Notebook or binder—use what you prefer. You need somewhere to take notes and complete assignments dedicated to this class.3. Folder - you need somewhere to keep handouts and returned papers.4. Pencil, eraser, and pen	



Course Aims & Objectives

AIMS - The aims of the TOK course are to:

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavor, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting upon it
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed by communities and individuals
- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Program, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings, and actions
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants' own
- encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community, and the individual as citizens of the world.

Objectives - Having followed the TOK course, students should be able to:

- analyze critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions, and their implications
- generate questions, explanations, conjectures, hypotheses, alternative ideas, and possible solutions in response to knowledge issues
- demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on knowledge issues
- draw links, and make effective comparisons between different approaches to knowledge issues
- demonstrate an ability to give a personal, self-aware response to a knowledge issue 6. formulate and communicate ideas clearly with due regard for accuracy and academic honesty.

A NOTE ABOUT COGNITIVE DISSONANCE:

Cognitive dissonance refers to a situation involving conflicting attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors. This produces a feeling of discomfort, leading to an alteration in one of the attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors to reduce the discomfort and restore balance etc. Students may be exposed to conflicting attitudes and opinions in the class. I will make every attempt to present both (multiple) sides of each issue discussed without bias. The goal of the class is to encourage critical thinking strategies and evidence-based learning for all students. Conversations regarding family values on topics covered in class are encouraged. Please contact me with questions regarding the course curriculum and content if they arise.

Course Expectations

1. Be prepared, be on time, and always do your best work.
2. Challenge and push yourself - don't be afraid to be wrong!
3. Respect your peers, your teacher, and yourself.

Behavioral Expectations

1. All Sandia/APS rules will be followed.
2. Students are responsible for making sure they are in class on time. Tardies will be given consequences consistent with school policies.
3. Please see the cell phone policy below.



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Classwork Participation

Due to the nature of the TOK course, students will be engaging in class discussions on a regular basis. It is expected that all students will participate fully in these discussions. Therefore it is important to remind all students to come to class ready to THINK, LISTEN, and SHARE. It is also important that students feel that the TOK classroom is a comfortable and supportive environment- therefore it is imperative that all participants (students and teacher) treat differing viewpoints with respect at all times.

Make-Up Work

It is crucial to a student's success to be in class EVERY day. If an absence is necessary, it is the student's responsibility to arrange to make up all missed work. Assignments will be posted on our Google Classroom page, so please check this for any make-up classwork if absent.

Google Classroom

All students are automatically added to Google Classroom. If you are not, please see Mrs. Martinez for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty/A.I. Policy

- The highest degree of **personal integrity** is demanded of students at all times.
- Students must complete their own work.
- Cheating includes wandering eyes, copying another student's answers, allowing someone to copy your work, and the use of unapproved aides (such as apps or websites or notes or AI).
- Students will not take photos of assessments or share them with other students.
- Talking/texting is absolutely prohibited during individual assessments.
- The use of any unapproved technology during assessments or assignments will result in a **zero** and further disciplinary action. Plagiarism of any printed material or online sources will also receive a grade of **zero**.

Grading Policies

A	90-100%	B	80-89%	C	70-79%	D	60-69%	F	0-59%
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Quarterly Progress Report Grades:

10% Deliberate Practice Activities
90% Demonstration of Knowledge Tasks

Semester Grade:

10% Semester Exam
90% 18-week Grade

Assessments

Assessments for TOK will include those prescribed by the IB programme in addition to those designed by the instructor. All assignments are designed to meet the goals of the IB Programme and TOK and to prepare students for successful completion of the IB assessments. All papers and presentations will be evaluated using IBO rubrics unless otherwise noted.

In the Junior year, students will complete the TOK exhibition. In the Senior year, students will write a 1600-word essay in response to prescribed titles published by the IB. Together these two assessments comprise the total IB score for the course, which can earn students up to three points toward the IB Diploma.



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Electronic Devices Schoolwide Policy

- Cell Phones/Electronic Devices Personal Electronic items of value are the responsibility of the student. If items are lost or stolen, the school is not responsible for search, replacement or reimbursement. Cell Phones/Electronic devices are not to be used during instructional time. This includes Smart Watches and headphones/earbuds.
- Personal Electronics have created security issues, including, but not limited to:
 - Academic Integrity/Cheating
 - Sexting/Harassment
 - Confidentiality
- Please remember the proper and correct procedure for using electronic devices at school:
 - Cell phones must be stored in a classroom designated storage area (pocket pouch, box, etc.)
 - Electronic devices will be confiscated by teachers if they are seen or heard during instructional time.
- **1st Violation**– teacher confiscation, parent notification, and return to the student at the end of class
- **2nd Violation**- teacher confiscation, turned- in to the vault in the Main Office, returned to student at the end of the day.
- **3rd Violation**- confiscation of the device, return to parent and student must complete Saturday School
- **4th Violation**- confiscation of the device, return to parent at parent conference, signed behavior contract, student must complete Saturday School.



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Please review this syllabus with your parent(s) or guardian(s), sign below and return this signature page.

I have read and understand Mrs. Martinez's Syllabus for IB Theory of Knowledge. I have also read Sandia High's cell phone/electronic device policy and understand the policy and consequences for using an electronic device during instructional time.

Student's Signature

Date

email/phone

Printed Student Name

Parent's Signature

Date

email/phone

Questions? Comments?
