

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE COURSE SYLLABUS

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
Mr. Nigro / Northwestern High School / Room A-111



About the course: TOK is a course about *knowledge*—what it is, how we acquire it, and how we may responsibly evaluate knowledge claims. TOK is not an academic subject, but rather it is an approach to learning that undergirds *all* subjects. In TOK we will practice the discipline of questioning assumptions, of making sound judgments concerning complex matters, and of articulating our positions convincingly, while respecting the informed opinions of others. Much of what we do in class involves researching and sharing information, discussing ideas, and debating issues.

Structure: TOK is a two-year core IB course required for all Diploma candidates. Individual class meetings are scheduled during 3rd Block throughout the year; Juniors meet on Tuesdays and Seniors meet on Thursdays (see below). The course meets for 100 classroom hours over two years.

Website (Blog): <http://ibsmartest.edublogs.org>.

IB Assessments: Students will create a formal Exhibition near the end of year 1 (33% weighting), and will write a 1600-word Essay in response to one of six prescribed titles published each year by the IB, in year 2 (67%). Together these two assessments comprise the total IB score for the course, which can earn students up to three points toward the IB Diploma, in conjunction with the IB Extended Essay. The Exhibition is scored by the teacher but moderated by the IB, while the Essays are externally assessed by IB Examiners, with the grades given by the teacher being for internal use only (see below).

NHS Grade: Juniors will be graded on assigned classwork (50%) and the Exhibition (50%). Seniors will write the TOK Essay (50%), and the IB Extended Essay (50%) and submit drafts to the teacher for comment and grading. In both years, the final grade receives Honors credit per District policy.

Schedule:

Semester 1: Juniors	1 st 9 weeks	Introduction to TOK (Knowledge Questions, 12 Concepts; Themes; Framework; Assessments); Core Theme: Knowledge & the Knower	Approx. 18 hours
	2 nd 9 weeks	Core Theme: Knowledge & the Knower (cont.); The Areas of Knowledge: Overview	Approx. 18 hours
Semester 2: Juniors	1 st 9 weeks	Optional Theme 1: Knowledge & Language; Optional Theme 2: Knowledge & Politics	Approx. 18 hours
	2 nd 9 weeks	Optional Theme 2: Knowledge & Politics (cont.); The TOK Exhibition	Approx. 18 hours
Semester 3: Seniors	1 st 9 weeks	AOKs in depth: The Arts; History; Mathematics	Approx. 18 hours
	2 nd 9 weeks	AOKs in depth: Mathematics (cont.); Natural Science; Human Sciences	Approx. 18 hours
Semester 4: Seniors	1 st 9 weeks	The TOK Essay & The Extended Essay	Approx. 10 hours