



# Burbank High School

an IB World School

## 2023-2024



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## IB Theory of Knowledge Syllabus

### Course Overview

The Theory of Knowledge (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 IB Diploma Programme.

In TOK, students reflect on knowledge, beliefs, and opinions, all primarily through the construction and exploration of knowledge questions (contestable questions about knowledge itself). The course focuses on the following areas: Knowledge and the Knower, The Natural Sciences, The Human Sciences, History, Mathematics, and Art.

The course offers students the opportunity to reflect closely on the process of critical thinking and its role in the acquisition of knowledge.

### Course Objectives

The timetable below offers an overview of the entire TOK course as it appears in the Diploma Programme through both 11th and 12th grades, including its three major assessments.

11th Grade		12th Grade	
First Semester	Second Semester	First Semester	Second Semester
<b>TOK course study and TOK exhibition</b>  The first semester consists of the study of TOK questions and topics. This first semester culminates in the TOK exhibition, which assesses the ability of the student to show how TOK manifests in the world around us.	<b>TOK Essay</b>  In addition to the EE, students construct a 1,600 word TOK essay on one of the six prescribed titles issued by the IB for each examination session. The TOK essay engages students in a more formal and sustained piece of writing in response to a title focused on the areas of knowledge.	<b>Extended Essay</b>  The Extended Essay is an independent, self-directed piece of research culminating in a 4,000 word essay. During year 2, students complete a close study of the essay guidelines, choose their topics, are matched with advisors, and complete research and writing of their essay. The IB diploma cannot be earned unless the student completes and receives a minimum of a D score by external IB examiners. A missing EE will automatically disqualify a student from earning the diploma.	<b>TOK course study</b>  The final semester returns to the continued study of TOK questions and themes, with a continued focus on the twelve TOK concepts: evidence, certainty, truth, interpretation, power, justification, explanation, objectivity, perspective, culture, values, and responsibility.

## Texts and Study Materials

- School-provided Chromebook and access to Canvas
- Spiral notebook or composition book for notetaking
- Teacher-provided reading materials

## Grades

Your grade for this course is based on the demonstration of your ability to perform the objectives and required skills for each unit of study. You will be assessed through unit exams, writing prompts, essays, assignments, projects, quizzes, research papers & presentations, group projects, discussions/participation, and homework assignments.

### Assignments: 60%

- **Formative:** Daily assignments, research activities, reading responses, discussion questions, group activities, and various reflective writings. (This list is not exhaustive and other options may apply.)

### Assessments: 40%

- **Summative:** TOK Exhibition, TOK Exhibition presentation, TOK Essay, Extended Essay, bibliographies, and rough drafts for each major essay. (This list is not exhaustive and other options may apply.)

## Important information if you are Absent

You are responsible for the material discussed and assignments completed during class, even in the event of an absence. Please know that being absent from class does not excuse you from completing assignments or meeting deadlines missed that day. It is your responsibility to collect and complete missed assignments when you are absent. It is also your responsibility to keep up with deadlines in a responsible, consistent manner so that absences do not lead to late points deducted from major assignments.

To help ensure that you have access to anything missed, I will be using Canvas for most graded assignments. Please note that topics, discussion questions, video clips, writing assignments, warm ups, and all classroom activity are thoughtfully planned to provide you with the most pertinent background knowledge and the best possible opportunity to do well on your major assessments. In addition to speaking with me, after any absence, I encourage you to also discuss with a classmate any classroom discussions or coverage of major concepts during your absence.

## Academic Honesty

Maintaining the integrity of the Diploma Programme is critical. As such, academic honesty is a top priority. Article 21 in the *General Regulations: Diploma Programme* outlines procedures for investigating cases of suspected academic misconduct and strongly advises that situations be resolved within the school setting prior to IB submission.

If a student has an academic honesty breach on an Internal Assessment (IA), the IA in question cannot be submitted to the IB. However, the student may be given opportunities to re-submit and/or correct the breach up to two weeks before the IB submission in order to give teachers time to assess the work. Teachers will provide feedback on student work in order to prevent such breaches.

If students use text or images from an Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT, they must:

- *Put the text in quotation marks,*
- *Make it clear it is from AI, and*
- *Include details (including the prompt) in the bibliography*

More details are available in the annex of the new IB Academic Integrity Policy and will be reviewed at the beginning of the school year. Rule of thumb: all work submitted must be the student's own writing.

If an academic honesty breach occurs, the following procedure will be followed (in the order listed below) and documented using the Frontline.

1. Notify the student of the breach.
2. The DP Coordinator will follow-up with the student, parent/guardian, and student's counselor. The school will keep a copy of the academic misconduct on file and coordinate on a plan for the ramifications (see the *Academic Honesty Policy*).

The incident will be documented in Frontline and the IB Administrator will be notified.