

Theory of Knowledge - The Areas of Knowing - Course Syllabus

Introduction:

Welcome Back! Last term, the focus of TOK 3183 was on the different ways by which we know (logos = knowledge). These four ways were, by way of review: Language [verbal and non]; rationalism [reason as influenced by prior experience]; empiricism [sensory perception] and emotionalism [feelings, intuition]. The purpose of this course, TOK 4183, is to apply what we learned through our ways of knowing to various areas of knowledge, most particularly, those defined by IBO. Thus, in the short span of time of five months, we will focus on and in this order:

Area of Knowledge:

Art (September)	History (October)
Natural Sciences (October)	Maths (November)
Social Sciences (November)	Ethics (December)
Religion (December)	

Methods of exploration will include but will not be limited to:

Class discussions	Journal entries
TED explorations	Podcasts
Pertinent websites	Film studies
And your own recent and ongoing experiences within these specific fields.	

Course evaluation:

I. Formal Essay –20%:

As you are aware, an externally evaluated paper on a proscribed 1200-1600 word paper which synthesizes elements from both courses, your own experiences, and your opinion is due upon completion of this course. The first draft will be due November 15, unless you are otherwise advised. If you no longer have a copy of the essay questions, please see me concerning this. Your draft will be marked by me; however, I have nothing but paperwork to do with the final one.

II. Informal essay responses – 40%:

This is a series of essays ranging from 350-500 words concerning specific Areas of Knowing as we study them. These will be in response to prompts provided by me, to on-line sites and /or hard copy articles I assign. These are to be prepared for me in an exercise book or, should typing be your preference, in a folder. The purpose behind this method is to maintain more of an ongoing portfolio format of your exploratory work.

III. Informal class presentations – 20%

As we explore the various areas of knowledge, you will be (t)asked with presenting to/sharing with the group your understanding/engagement with facets of these fields. These presentations could be in small groups, paired share, whole group. See other side for first one.

IV. In class presentation – 20%:

This concerns what IBO calls *knowledge issues*. Your role is to prepare an in-class presentation complying with IB's time line and evaluated according to IB's rubric. The scope can be far-reaching and imaginative but **MUST** present a real situation which raises pertinent questions and *possible* solutions. There will be further explanation of this next week and we will look to begin these in the last two weeks of November.

