



**SAINT GEORGE
SCHOOL**
FOUNDED 1965



Porfirio Herrera No. 6, Ensanche Piantini.
Santo Domingo, D. N. Rep. Dominicana

T. 809 562 5262 F. 809 562 5015
www.stgeorge.edu.do

IB Theory of Knowledge II (12th Grade)

Teacher: Patrick Watson

Email: pwatson@saintgeorge.do

Academic year: 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

ToK is at the core of the IB programme, and it aims to help students broaden their intellectual horizons and further develop their critical thinking skills by encouraging them to make connections across the traditional boundaries separating academic disciplines and at the same time evaluating claims to knowledge. It embraces epistemology and other aspects of philosophy but it is not a philosophy course per se.

SKILLS

Students will apply critical thinking to a wide range of knowledge claims and issues. They will be aware of different problems of knowing, the need to justify knowledge claims, and be able to identify different knowledge communities.

Having examined the different Ways of Knowing they should be able to recognize the ambiguities and limitations of language and our senses of perception, and to understand the ways in which emotion and reason are inseparable. In short, they should be aware of building artificial barriers between Ways of Knowing as well as between Areas of Knowledge, and to take a more holistic viewpoint.

Students should also be more aware of the multicultural aspect of the knowledge endeavour as this is stressed throughout their two years of ToK.

CONTENT

- Review of key terms and concepts
- The Arts as an Area of Knowledge continued: literature and music, connections to other Areas of Knowledge. Review of visual arts and linking questions.
- Identification of real life issues/contemporary problems, e.g., global warming, what makes a work of art?, etc., in order to select suitable topics for the final presentation.
- Ethics as an Area of Knowledge; links to other Areas.
- Truth, wisdom and revisiting the question of "What is Truth?"
- Review of Areas of Knowledge previously covered to help students in preparing their presentations.
- Individual, group and paired presentations on diverse knowledge issues identified in contemporary issues.
- Non-Diploma students will write a term paper on a prescribed topic (all my ToK students in 11th grade were required to write the ToK essay).

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

ToK for the IB Diploma

* This core text do not make up the entirety of the printed resources to be used in the course.

Other resources will include:

Extracts from the IB ToK Course Companion

*Students are expected to have the following material for class:

Textbook, binder, black or blue pen.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The class will centre on discussions, and each student will be involved in class presentations, either individual, paired or group. In addition there will be a written assignment each corte.

EVALUATIONS

Participation (30%)

Class Work (40%) including presentations

Tests/projects/essays (30%)

OTHER REMARKS REGARDING OUR CLASS

Evaluations in ToK are always difficult, and in order to try and be as objective as possible, the grade breakdown shown above indicates the weight given to the written assignment set each corte and presentations, which students will regularly deliver. Note will also be taken of students' contributions to discussions and presentations. This grade scheme may be modified once the year begins, and students will obviously be notified of any changes.