

## Theory of Knowledge II: Applications

Fall 2020

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Lubbock High School -- Room 2018

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Conference: 1<sup>st</sup> period M-F (virtual, by appt. only)

Tutorials: 7:55-8:15 M-F or by arrangement (virtual, by appt. only)

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### Course Description / Philosophy

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) is designed to foster deep critical thought regarding the nature of knowledge and the connections between the various areas of your IB Diploma Programme coursework. This second semester of the course will ask you to further investigate the skills and concepts you acquired during the junior year and apply them to the creation of an official presentation and essay that will count towards your progress on the IB Diploma. **Most important, through their work in ToK, students will grow academically, socially, and emotionally in their daily representation of the IB Learner Profile traits: Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-taker, Balanced, Reflective.** While many assignments will be completed in class, outside reading and preparation is required and essential for understanding and personal growth. **This is a discussion-based course, and you are expected to actively and thoughtfully participate in class.**

### COVID-related Classroom Policies

LISD COVID-related policies and procedures will be followed throughout the semester. Additionally, in order to minimize health risks and accommodate all learners, the following policies have also been established for IB Theory of Knowledge:

- **All conferences and tutorials will be conducted virtually and by appointment only, unless extenuating circumstances require otherwise.**
- Instruction will take place almost exclusively online, whether students are learning at school or at home. Students physically attending class should make sure that they bring a computer and charger to class each day.
- Students physically attending class are **STRONGLY** encouraged to bring their own Kleenex and hand-sanitizer.
- As much as possible, all handouts, readings, and other materials will be distributed virtually.
- All assignments will be submitted virtually.
- To minimize health risks, student electronic devices will **NOT** be collected before class. However, students are expected to silence / turn off their phones and place them in their bags at the start of instruction. Attention and personal engagement are essential to a good experience in this course.

### Supplies Needed Daily (Face-to-Face Students)

- Mask, to be worn over mouth and nose at all times
- Personal computer or Chrome book with charger
- Composition Book (optional -- can be reused from spring semester)
- Kleenex and hand sanitizer (strongly recommended)
- Headphones (strongly recommended)

### IB ToK Assessments

By the end of the semester, each student will have completed two products that determine his/her score for Theory of Knowledge on the IB Diploma: an internally assessed presentation (1/3 of overall grade) and an externally assessed essay (2/3 of overall grade). Students will be responsible for electronically submitting their ToK essays directly to IB during February/March 2021. More details about official assessments will be provided during the course.

### Late Work / Make-up Work

All homework is due at the start of the class period unless otherwise specified. Any work not completed at that time will be counted late and penalized 10 points per day late. Students will not have the opportunity to redo late work. Students who are tardy to class will not receive extra time to complete in-class assignments.

## Classroom Guidelines\*

- **Be attentive.** You are expected to be ready to learn at all times and to actively participate throughout the entire class period. Using your phone, sleeping, having personal conversations, and passing notes are all **unacceptable**, as is any other behavior that impedes your ability to focus on class instruction, activities, or discussion. You will receive one warning if you are working on an assignment from another class; the second request will result in my confiscating the assignment.
- **Be responsible.** You are expected to arrive to class **on time** having completed any and all outside assignments. If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you will be counted tardy. You are expected to work diligently on any in-class assignments. If you are absent, you are expected to take the initiative to find out what you have missed.
- **Be honest.** You are expected to maintain a high degree of personal and academic integrity at all times. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will be dealt with severely.
- **Be cool.** You are expected to have a respectful attitude towards the teacher and your fellow students at all times -- even when they voice beliefs, opinions, and ideas that are different from your own. Belittling comments, aggressive behavior, harassment, and other disrespectful, violent, and/or unsafe conduct will not be tolerated.

*\*All rules related to the LHS Academic Integrity Plan, the LISD Student Code of Conduct, and other school policies will apply.*

## Email

Please remember to be courteous and professional when communicating with your instructors. Include a proper salutation and closing in all of your emails, and take time to carefully proofread what you've written before sending. Do not email a teacher unless you have exhausted all other methods of finding out the answer to your question by yourself. Please know that I often do not check email after school hours or during holiday breaks. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, last-minute emails will usually not receive a reply. In order to ensure that I *can* reply to your message, please send me an email through your email service (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.); **do not email me through the electronic grade book.**

## College Recommendation Letters

***\*IMPORTANT: Because ToK only met face-to-face from January to mid-March, it will be very difficult for me to write an effective letter of recommendation for you unless I've also worked with you in another course (e.g. PSAT Prep, Octathlon, or Decathlon) and/or your work during spring virtual learning consistently demonstrated effort above and beyond the norm. Otherwise, I would suggest asking for a letter from your other IB instructors or sophomore-year teachers.***

As seniors, you will need college recommendation letters. However, before you ask someone for a recommendation, make sure of the specific application requirements for your school(s) so that you are not unnecessarily spending any of your own or your teachers' time. While most instructors are happy to write letters, please know the recommendation process is typically very time-consuming. Under no circumstances should you ask for a recommendation unless you know that it is required for your application and actually plan to use it as part of your application. Many colleges will not review more than 2-3 letters of recommendation, and unless specifically directed otherwise, you should seek out recommendations from teachers who have known and worked closely with you for an extended period of time. These letters typically carry greater weight with admissions offices than do letters written by other individuals. If you have a specific major in mind, consider asking for a recommendation from an instructor who teaches a similar or related subject area.

If you decide to ask me for a recommendation, you'll need to plan ahead; my schedule is such that I cannot write a letter at the last minute. Adhering to the following procedures will help ensure that I can recommend you in the best possible light:

- A. Request your letter as soon as possible **in person** -- otherwise, your request will be ignored, as I consider this to be an important matter of courtesy. If I can write a letter for you, I will ask you to provide me with details related to your application type, college(s) / scholarship(s) to which you're applying, intended major, motivations for pursuing that major, extracurricular activities, and any ongoing volunteer or work experiences. Having this information readily available whenever you talk to me can greatly help to speed along the process.

- B. I will not start writing a letter until I receive the information listed above (see requirement A) as well as an official request, usually via email, from your college or scholarship group. **All of this must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline**, so plan far ahead. Otherwise, your request will almost certainly be declined. (Exception: If I have already written a recommendation for you within the last 2 months, please contact me **at least 1 week** in advance so I have ample time to revise your letter, as needed.) Students will not receive a copy of their letters.
- C. Please know that I do my best to write thoughtful recommendations that provide colleges and scholarship committees with an **honest** assessment -- positive or negative -- of students' academic performance, personal integrity, and other school-related characteristics. Do not ask for a letter unless you are confident in your performance (effort, participation, work ethic, skill level, responsibility, etc.) throughout the course. If I am asked to write multiple letters for you, subsequent recommendations will reflect your most recent level of performance within the course. Recommendations can and will be rescinded if needed, and subsequent requests may be refused, depending on my assessment of your performance as well as the flexibility of my schedule.
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### **Course Overview: Major Dates and Deadlines** (subject to change)

<b>Aug. 28</b>	Summer Assignments Due
<b>Sep. 16</b>	Essay Prompt Proposal Form Due
<b>Oct. 1</b>	Essay Outline and Bibliography Due
<b>Oct. 16:</b>	ToK Essay (Feedback Draft) Due
<b>Nov. 5-18:</b>	ToK Presentations (IA)
<b>Dec. 17:</b>	ToK Essay (Upload Draft) due
<b>Feb./Mar. 2021:</b>	ToK Essay Uploaded to IB for Scoring

# The diploma points matrix

May 2015 onwards

		Theory of knowledge					
		Grade <b>A</b>	Grade <b>B</b>	Grade <b>C</b>	Grade <b>D</b>	Grade <b>E</b>	No grade <b>N</b>
Extended essay	Grade <b>A</b>	3	3	2	2	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade <b>B</b>	3	2	2	1	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade <b>C</b>	2	2	1	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade <b>D</b>	2	1	0	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade <b>E</b>	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition
	No grade <b>N</b>	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition

