



**International**

**Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge II**  
**Mr. Hollowell Fall 2021**

TOK is a course about critical thinking and inquiring into the process of knowing, rather than about learning a specific body of knowledge. It is a core element which all Diploma Program. TOK and the Diploma Program subjects should support each other in the sense that they reference each other and share some common goals. The TOK course examines how we know what we claim to know. It does this by encouraging students to analyze knowledge claims and explore knowledge questions. A knowledge claim is the assertion that “I/we know X” or “I/we know how to Y”, or a statement about knowledge; a knowledge question is an open question about knowledge. A distinction between shared knowledge and personal knowledge is made in the TOK guide. This distinction is intended as a device to help teachers construct their TOK course and to help students explore the nature of knowledge.

Goals: The aims of the TOK course are to

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavor, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting on it.
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated, and renewed, by communities and individuals.
- encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and in the Diploma Program, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals, and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions, including participants’ own.
- encourage considerations of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community, and the individual as citizen of the world.

**Presumed Knowledge of Students Entering IB TOK II:**

1. Students analyze critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions, and their implications.
2. Students generate questions, explanations, conjectures, hypotheses, alternative ideas, and possible solutions in response to knowledge issues concerning areas of knowledge, ways of knowing, and students’ own experience as learners.
3. Students demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on knowledge issues.
4. Students draw links and make effective comparisons between different approaches to knowledge issues that derive from areas of knowledge, ways of knowing, theoretical positions, and cultural values.
5. Students demonstrate an ability to give a personal, self-aware response to a knowledge issue.
6. Students formulate and communicate ideas clearly with due regard for accuracy and academic honesty.

Course Links: Please review carefully.

1. [What is Theory of Knowledge](#)
2. [TOK Subject Guide](#)
3. [Mr. Hollowell's Course Website](#)