Theory of Knowledge

Spring - Fall of 2022

Ms. Arechaga

Welcome to your first semester of ToK! I look forward to facilitating an environment for you to explore and reflect. The process of accumulating, processing, and especially reflecting on your knowledge, is deeply personal and speaks to who you are as an individual. What a wonderful opportunity for us to examine that process together as a class.

**First, I would like to state my expectations:**

I expect you to be prepared, not just with your notebook, and writing utensils, but mentally prepared as well. If there was a reading you had to do for homework, I expect it to not just have been read, but thought of and fresh in your mind.

I expect you to be respectful of your peers and of myself. If someone says something you don’t like or you’re especially cranky, or whatever, you don’t take it out on other people, and you find an intelligent appropriate response to other peoples beliefs or statements. If we’re doing something that is not interesting to you in class, I still expect you to put your all into it, to try as best you can, and to keep complaints to a minimum.

I expect you to take accountability for your actions. Everyone makes mistakes, everyone messes up, own it. There are always consequences to ones actions, sometimes good, sometimes bad.

I expect you to be a positive member of your peer group. This means you try to encourage others, to go out of your way to help someone, to set a good example.

**What you can expect from me:**

You can expect me to be prepared for class everyday, both with materials and mentally.

You can expect me to be respectful of who you are and of your beliefs.

You can expect me to be positive and to always encourage and challenge you to do your best.

You can expect me to facilitate an open, safe, and secure environment for you to learn and feel comfortable in.

You can expect me to take your work seriously and know that I thoughtfully grade and look over your assignments.

**Behavior Policy:**

School is supposed to be a safe, comfortable, educational environment. No one has a right to take that from you, if someone in the class compromises that, it needs to be addressed.

This is a complicated subject and people are complicated. Things we cover and discuss might insight anger, defensiveness, shock, sadness, etc. Remember to respect each other and to allow each other to talk and to truly listen. That being said, opinions voiced that are downright offensive, use expletives, racist, homophobic, or sexist, will not be tolerated. There is a difference between ignorance and asking uncomfortable questions and knowingly saying something to upset or offend others.

This goes both ways, if I say or do something that upsets you or offends you, please come talk to me. If you feel like there is something going on or someone making comments that I’m not addressing, please tell me.

I would ideally like to deal with behavior problems in the class, during lunch, or before or after school. But if chronic disruption, rude or unsafe behavior, or tardies/absences begin to occur, then office intervention will be used.

**Late Work:**

I will not accept late work past the school deadlines. We will not have a lot of homework so I do not foresee this being a big issue.

**Outline:**

**We will be using an online curriculum guide that divided the course into six “Big Questions.” Each BQ Unit has a theme and ties in at least one Area of Knowing.**

Unit One:

BQ 1 – (Foundations) What is ToK and why do we study it?

Unit Two:

Read Chapter 11 – The Arts

BQ 2 – (Values) – How does our knowledge about the world inform the way we construct our values?

Unit Three:

Read Chapter 9 – The Human Sciences

BQ 3 – (Spin) – How is our understanding of the world influenced by the way knowledge is communicated?

Unit Four:

Read Chapter 10 – History

BQ 4 – (Perspectives) – How do our perspectives and biases shape our knowledge about the world?

Unit Five:

BQ 5 – (Creativity) – How is new knowledge about the world created?

Unit Six:

BQ 6 – Summary – How do we become discerning knowers?

**Assignments:**

Most assignments will be in class and made up of discussion points, group work, presentations, and small google classroom assignments. There will be a practice exhibition this semester and then a bigger exhibition around late November/early December. The ToK essay we will cover next school year.

There are no weighed assignments in this class, meaning all assignments are just point based. I will do my best to post the weeks schedule on google classroom every Monday… but depending on how conversations in class go, it might be a little off day by day.