

**MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COURSE OF STUDY**

**COURSE TITLE:** Theory of Knowledge Semester 1  
**COURSE NUMBER:** 340295  
**CBEDS NUMBER:** 2768  
**DEPARTMENT:** Social Studies/International Baccalaureate  
**LENGTH OF COURSE:** 1 year  
**CREDITS PER SEMESTER:** 5  
**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
**REQUIRED OR ELECTIVE:** Elective. This course meets the current A-G “g” requirement for UC admission.

**PREREQUISITES:** None  
**Required -**  
**Recommended -**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTION:** May 22, 2017

**NOTE:** This course is previously approved by the UC/CSU, under the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO). The official IB Subject Guide was used to create the Course of Study submitted to the IBO on April 1, 2016, along with the Application for Authorization. The Course of Study submitted was approved by the IBO as meeting the requirements of the course. **Please see the attached Theory of knowledge guide published by the IBO, 2013, updated 2015.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Per IBO requirements, Theory of Knowledge is a one-year course that bridges the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a course about critical thinking and inquiring into the process of knowing, rather than about learning a specific body of knowledge. It plays a special role in the DP by providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, to make connections between areas of knowledge and to become aware of their own perspectives and those of the various groups whose knowledge they share. It is a core element undertaken by all DP students, and schools are required to devote at least 100 hours of class time to the course. The overall aim of TOK is to encourage students to formulate answers to the question “how do you know?” in a variety of contexts, and to see the value of that question. This allows students to develop an enduring fascination with the richness of knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

**COURSE PURPOSE:**

The aims of the TOK course are to:

- Make connections between a critical approach to the construction of knowledge, the academic disciplines and the wider world
- Develop an awareness of how individuals and communities construct knowledge and how this is critically examined

---

<sup>1</sup> IBO, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Subject Brief DP Core: Theory of Knowledge, 2014

- Develop an interest in the diversity and richness of cultural perspectives and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions
- Critically reflect on their own beliefs and assumptions, leading to more thoughtful, responsible and purposeful lives
- Understand that knowledge brings responsibility which leads to commitment and action<sup>2</sup>

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

(Please see attached Theory of knowledge guide, pages 16 to 28 for more details.)

1. Knowing about knowing--how do we know what we claim to know?
2. Comparing 'shared' knowledge versus 'personal knowledge'.
3. Ways of knowing--students will study a minimum of four of the following eight ways of knowing:
  - a. language
  - b. sense perception
  - c. emotion
  - d. reason
  - e. imagination
  - f. faith
  - g. intuition
  - h. memory
4. Areas of knowledge--students will study six of the following eight areas of knowledge:
  - a. mathematics
  - b. the natural sciences
  - c. human sciences
  - d. the arts
  - e. history
  - f. ethics
  - g. religious knowledge systems
  - h. indigenous knowledge systems

### **KEY ASSIGNMENTS:**

- Essay on title chosen from a list of six prescribed titles given by the IB organization.
- One presentation about the exploration of a knowledge question to the class by an individual or a group (max of three persons), approximately 10 minutes.
- Written presentation planning document.

### **INSTRUCTIONS METHODS and/or STRATEGIES:**

(Please see attached Theory of knowledge guide, pages 10 to 15 for more details.)

General IB approaches to teaching are:

- Based on inquiry
- Focused on conceptual understanding
- Developed in local and global contexts

---

<sup>2</sup> IBO, 2014

- Focused on effective teamwork and collaboration
- Differentiated to meet the needs of all learners
- Informed by formative and summative assessment.

Strategies to meet these approaches with students include deliberate lesson planning that encourages students to develop these approaches to learning skills:

- Thinking
- Communication
- Social
- Self-management
- Research

**ASSESSMENTS INCLUDING METHODS and/or TOOLS**

(Please see attached Theory of knowledge guide, pages 50 to 59 for more details.)

There are ongoing formative and summative assessments throughout the course as prepared by the instructor. In addition, there are specific IB assessments called Internal Assessment (IA) and External Assessment (EA). Preparation for both the IAs and EAs are ongoing throughout the course.

IA: Written presentation planning document  
Presentation exploring a knowledge question raised by a substantive real-life situation

EA: Essay on a title chosen from a list of six prescribed titles as released by the IBO.

**INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:**

Board approved textbook.

**For Honors Distinction:**

This course is recognized by the UC/CSU portal as an honors course.

**CORRESPONDING NON-HONORS COURSE:**

There is no corresponding course as Theory of Knowledge content is specific to the pedagogy of the International Baccalaureate World Schools curriculum.

**Committee Members:**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Carissa Weintraub | 4. Sasha Robinson |
| 2. Efa Huckaby       | 5. Andrew Hubbell |
| 3. David Ramirez     | 6. Debra Arthur   |

