**Curriculum**

**Theory of Knowledge Y1**

**Course Overview**

International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates take this course for in the first of the two-year IB Program. Through discussions, presentations, readings, and writing, the course focuses on the Ways of Knowing (perception, language, reason, emotion, imagination, intuition, memory, and faith) and Areas of Knowledge (arts, history, natural sciences, human sciences, mathematics, ethics, religious knowledge systems, and indigenous knowledge systems). During the two-year program, students will see the problems and ideals of knowledge in a variety of contexts. The IB Diploma requires an internally assessed class presentation and an externally assessed essay in the second year. Students in Year One take a field trip to the Tate Modern and make a curriculum-based retreat to Italy during October Travel Week.

**Department Standards**

Students should:

Develop an awareness of past and present cultures.

Develop an inter-curricular view of the world around them and of themselves.

Develop an appreciation of the arts.

Develop critical thinking skills.

Express ideas clearly both orally and in writing.

Develop a deepening appreciation of their own and others’ values.

**Benchmarks**:

1. Recognise Knowledge Issues inherent in Real Life Situations

2. Understand the scope, application, and limitations of Ways of Knowing

3. Understand the degree to which Areas of Knowledge incorporate different Ways of Knowing

4. Evaluate the links between different Areas of Knowledge

5. Express an understanding of Knowledge Issues clearly in written and oral form

6. Analyse Knowledge Issues from multiple perspectives

**Performance Indicators**

1. Identify Knowledge Issues inherent in Real Life Situations (B1).

2. Explain the scope, application, and limits of Ways of Knowing (B2).

3. Show the relationships between Areas of Knowledge and Ways of Knowing (B3).

4. Explain the relationships between different Areas of Knowledge (B4).

5. Explain and analyse Knowledge Issues orally from multiple perspectives (B5, B6).

6. Explain and analyse Knowledge Issues in writing from multiple perspectives (B5, B6).

**Assessments**

1. Journal writing and in-class written exercises (PI1, PI2, PI3, PI4, PI6)

2. Class discussions on Knowledge Issues, Ways of Knowing, and Areas of Knowledge (PI1, PI2, PI3, PI4, PI5)

3. Written responses to field trip experiences, movies, assigned reading. (PI3, PI6)

4. Practice TOK-style essay (PI2, PI3, PI4, PI6)

5. Practice TOK-style presentation (PI1, PI3, PI4, PI5)

**Core Topics**

1. Knowledge Issues

 a. about knowledge

 b. open question

 c. general

2. Ways of Knowing

 a. Sense Perception

 b. Language

 c. Reason

 d. Emotion

 e. Imagination

 f. Intuition

 g. Memory

 h. Faith

3. Areas of Knowledge

 a. Art

 b. History

 c. Natural Sciences

 d. Human Sciences

 e. Mathematics

 f. Ethics

 g. Indigenous Knowledge Systems

 h. Religious Knowledge Systems

The Knowledge Framework

 a. Scope and Application

 b. Concepts and Language

 c. Methods

 d. Historical development

 e. Links to Personal Knowledge

**Specific Content**

1. Introduction: Knowledge Questions

2. Way of Knowing: Sense Perception

3. Area of Knowledge: Art

4. October Travel Week Trip to Italy

 a. Ways of Knowing: Sense Perception, Imagination

 b. Areas of Knowledge: Art, Religious Knowledge Systems

5. Field Trip to Tate Modern

 a. Ways of Knowing: Sense Perception, Imagination

 b. Areas of Knowledge: Art, Ethics

6. Way of Knowing: Language

7. Area of Knowledge: History

8. Way of Knowing: Reason

9. Areas of Knowledge: Natural Sciences, Human Sciences, Mathematics

10. Way of Knowing: Emotion

11. Area of Knowledge: Ethics

12. Ways of Knowing: Imagination, Intuition, Memory, Faith

13. Areas of Knowledge: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Religious Knowledge Systems

14. Conclusion: The Knowledge Framework

**Resources**

Colleagues

Excerpts from Plato, Tolstoy, Santayana, and Dewey

Fleming Gallery

Museums and Galleries in Rome and Florence

Selected essays, opinions, and articles from print and online publications

Student Journals

Tate Modern

Upper School Library

Videos: e.g., "Rashomon," "Johnny Got His Gun," "The Skin of our Teeth" from Kenneth Clark's "Civilisation," “Proof,” “Pi,” “Judgment at Nuremburg”

Visiting lecturers

YouTube documentaries and Ted Talks