

David Bradberry

- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction
- B.A. in History
- Georgia T-5 certification
- 29 years teaching experience

Required Materials:

- a small binder or folder exclusively for TOK
- some notebook paper
- lots of blue or black pens
- turn in all papers in **blue or black** ink
- Bring a **laptop** to class daily.

Students and Parents

Sign up for class reminders

Text @arctok to 81010

**REQUIRED – you plus a parent**

Organization: Students are responsible for keeping up with assignments, being prepared for all discussions, and meeting all deadlines. Class will be a combination of discussion of, student reflection on knowledge questions through articles, books, quotations, film/video, and artistic works which will comprise the “text” for this class.

Technology: Laptops and only laptops may at times, designated by the teacher, be used for instructional purposes. Otherwise, students are not allowed to have any devices out on their desks or in their hands or being used in any manner during class without prior permission. Students also may not video or audio record any of their classmates or me without prior permission. The RCSS/ARC Cell Phone policy will be enforced. See below for more information.

Attendance: Aim for perfect attendance. Missing class can create problems. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments around this class. Get notes and assignments from a classmate. *If you check out, your assignments are due before you leave school. **All work turned in after the due date will receive a 20% reduction in grade for each day late **unless** the absence is excused. Deadlines people, deadlines! ***The ARC tardy policy will be enforced.

Grading: Your grade will be based on the percentages outlined by the Richmond County Board of Education. Grades will be averaged from a combination of class discussion and participation, classwork and homework, informal writing assignments, and IB-assessed papers/projects (EE, TOK Essay, TOK Presentation, CAS).

Class participation and extra credit are considered for students who are “on the fence” between letter grades. It is the responsibility of the student to request and complete any makeup work or extra credit assignments. Makeup work will be permitted only if an absence is excused.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to create work free of plagiarism, copying, cheating, or any other form of dishonesty. Students failing to maintain integrity will receive a grade of ZERO on related assignments/tasks and face progressive discipline.

Food and Electronics: There will be no food allowed in the classroom. Headphones are not to be in your ears during class, even if nothing is playing.

Richmond County NEW CELLPHONE/ELECTRONIC Policy 2024-2025

Cellular phones, smart phones, smart watches, any type of headphones, earbuds, and other devices or accessories used to electronically communicate. The use of cell phones, electronic communication devices and/or accessories is prohibited for all students at all times during the instructional day, which is defined as the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day and/or the time the student leaves campus. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to, class periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or nonstructured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the common areas, hallways, restrooms, locker rooms or any other areas during the instructional day.

LATE WORK POLICY

1. Assignments will be accepted for 75% credit FIVE days after the due date with a 5% reduction for each day late. After 11:59 of the FIFTH day, the assignment will close, and no more submissions will be accepted. (For example, a Canvas assignment due January 7th would be open until 11:59 on January 12th – weekends will not count, school days only.)
2. This applies both to assignments submitted on Canvas or due in class on paper (due on the FIFTH day at the end of the school day.)
3. Any assignments not submitted during that time will be entered into the gradebook as an “M” for missing.
4. Exceptions to this new policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Daily Classroom Rules:

*come to class on time *come to class prepared with the necessary materials *remain in your assigned seat unless otherwise instructed *raise your hand to speak *do not bring food or drinks into the classroom/turn off all tech

Consequences of Rules Violations:

*verbal warning *teacher conference with student *contact parent *teacher detention after second parental contact *refer problem to administration **serious infractions and persistent behavior problems will result in immediate referral to the administration

Disclaimer: *The teacher reserves the sole and complete right to modify this syllabus at any time and in any way he sees fit. Minor syllabus modifications often happen during the school year. However, any changes will be made for the good of the class and announced as soon as possible.*

To Parents: Please read this syllabus carefully. If you have any concerns, I may be contacted through Canvas email, the email address below, or at 706.231.7884.

Thank you,

David Bradberry
bradbda@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Please sign and return to Mr. Bradberry. Do not cut it. The signed syllabus will be returned to all students.

I have read and understand the requirements for my child in Mr. Bradberry's Theory of Knowledge class. I also give my child permission to watch films, videos, and documentaries shown in this class. They are shown not to promote a particular ideology or agenda but to engage students in approaching often difficult topics from multiple perspectives.

Signature _____

Student's Name _____

TOK Course Description

"There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking." Fred Korzybsk

"Theory of knowledge is a product of doubt." Bertrand Russell

The following course description is taken directly from the TOK Course Guide:

Nature of the Subject

It is commonplace to say that the world has experienced a digital revolution and that we are now part of a global information economy. The extent and impact of the changes signaled by such grand phrases vary greatly in different parts of the world, but their implications for knowledge are profound.

Reflection on such huge cultural shifts is one part of what the TOK course is about. Its context is a world immeasurably different from that inhabited by "renaissance man". Knowledge may indeed be said to have exploded; it has not only expanded massively but also become increasingly specialized, or fragmented. At the same time, discoveries in the modern day (quantum mechanics, chaos theory) have demonstrated that there are things that are impossible for us to know or predict.

The TOK course, a core element in the Diploma Programme, encourages critical thinking about knowledge itself, to try to help young people make sense of what they encounter. Its core content is questions like these: What counts as knowledge? How does it grow? What are its limits? Who owns knowledge? What is the value of knowledge? What are the implications of having, or not having, knowledge?

What makes TOK unique, and distinctively different from standard academic disciplines, is its process. At the center of the course is the student as **knower**.

Assessments in TOK Year 2: Four Major Tasks – We will start off the year with a review of TOK Concepts through discussion of readings, documentaries, and a couple of films. Call it “applied” TOK. You will also be working on major IB and TOK assessments and requirements as listed below.

The Extended Essay: You should have completed or be very near completion of this IB Core paper. This will be the first major task for this year and will be completed, finalized, and submitted to IB at or near the *middle of the first semester*. This will be a focus at the *beginning of the first semester*.

The TOK Essay on a Prescribed Title: Each student will compose a 1,400 to 1,600 words essay on one of six titles prescribed by IB. These essays will be submitted for external assessment to IB. *Begin 1st Semester, submit early 2nd semester.*

The TOK Exhibition: Begun during the junior year. Completed during the senior year. Scored internally. Submitted to IB. *2nd Semester.*

CAS: Continue to record and reflect on CAS entries which should have been non-stop and regularly submitted to ManageBac since last year. *Recurring – there will be periodic, graded checkpoints.*