SPECIAL INTEREST COURSES

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE-HONORS/IB (IB DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT)

#8102 Junior  1.00 credit  First term of course
#8104 & 8106 Senior  Two term course

Theory of Knowledge is a core element of the International Baccalaureate diploma program. This seminar is designed to promote and guide reflection on and synthesis of knowledge generated in the various academic disciplines with a particular emphasis on the students’ personal integration of knowledge into their own lives. This culminating course is an IB requirement for all diploma candidates and prospective candidates.

The course explores various areas of knowledge: mathematics, history, natural sciences, human sciences, the arts, etc. The TOK course examines how we know what we claim to know. This exploration of shared and personal knowledge connects specific areas of knowledge with the primary ways of knowing such as language, reason, emotion, sensory perception, imagination, etc. Application of the knowledge framework facilitates analysis and evaluation of knowledge questions and knowledge claims. Students should thus be able to critically explore the relationships among areas of knowledge and ways of knowing and the real-life decisions we make based upon our knowledge.

Evaluation is based heavily upon seminar preparation and participation with written assignments and oral presentations reflecting the assessment criteria set forth by IB.

Diploma candidates will also receive supervision regarding the 4,000 word extended essay based upon independent research as required by IB. While distinct from the Theory of Knowledge course curriculum, the extended essay is another core element of the IB diploma program.

STUDENTS TAKE THE COURSE FOR A TOTAL OF THREE TERMS, THE THIRD TERM OF JUNIOR YEAR AND THE FIRST AND SECOND TERMS OF SENIOR YEAR.

CAREER INTERNSHIP – COLLEGE PREP

#8207 Senior .33 credit Term course

Career internship will provide a firsthand experience with professionals in a specific career field. Its primary objective is to provide an introduction to the day-to-day roles and responsibilities of a career professional. Student expectations will include: (1) application to the internship program through the counselor, (2) an interview with and approval by the appropriate employment placement supervisor, (3) providing own transportation to and from the job site, (4) commitment to the employer every other day from 1:30-5:00 (or other approved time frame), and (5) undergoing periodic evaluations by the employment supervisor. A limited number of in-house internships are available as well. Please see your counselor for more information.

SPEECH AND DEBATE

#2535 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

The Speech and Debate course is designed to offer students interested in enhancing their skills in presenting an argument and oral interpretation. In class, students will prepare for competitions in the Erie Catholic Forensic League and the National Speech and Debate Association that occur throughout the season. Those taking the course will perfect their approach to their selected event in which they will compete. The goal is to gain skills that will help students in other academic pursuits, including writing skills, research tools, and public speaking. Students who take the course are expected to participate in the various CFL and NSDA events during the year.