

Theory of Knowledge

teacher Zoom link

Mr. Rigler's Zoom Classroom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9960557668>

preferred contact method

Students and parents/guardians should email me at isaac@silveroakmontessori.org if they have any questions or concerns. I will respond at my soonest possible availability during normal school hours.

essential understanding

Students will examine the essential questions of existence through a survey of Western and Eastern philosophical traditions with a thematic focus on exploring answers to the questions: “*What is reality?*”, “*What is the self?*”, “*Do we have free will?*”, and “*What does it mean to live a good life?*”



overview

This first semester of this course will explore the essential questions of human existence through the study of diverse philosophical traditions and themes. This course serves to expand students' knowledge of how questions we all ponder at some time, such as “what is the true nature of reality?” and “what is the meaning of life?”, have been explored historically and how these questions continue to be explored today. Major topics explored in this course include *epistemology*, *metaphysics*, *theology*, *free will*, *ethics*, and *aesthetics*. Students will be challenged to develop skills in cognitive and creative exploration as well as critical and logical thinking. Embracing multiple perspectives, students will engage in dialogue, observation, and academic research.

Guiding Question 1: What is reality?

lessons

_____ Metaphysics

_____ God, Faith, the Afterlife

group work

Due Date: Oct. 8th/9th

Minutes for Completion: ~120

_____ **“What is Reality?”** - Students will complete *one of two* assignments below.

1) **Metaphysical Theory** - In groups students will choose a metaphysical theory and present their research to the class. Each group must pick a different metaphysical theory. Grades will be based upon completion of a research information sheet and a 4-6 minute group presentation. Groups will use any accessible digital medium (Google Slides, Prezi, Padlet, etc...) to show their theory. Groups must also incorporate into their presentation *an artistic medium, skit, performance or other kinetic demonstration* over Zoom. Specifically, groups should:

- Define and explain their theory
- Give important background information about theory
- Explain how the theory answers the question ‘What is reality?’
- Give examples of philosophers or religions or myths related to your metaphysical theory

Metaphysical Theories

- Monism
- Dualism
- Pluralism
- Dialectical Idealism
- Dialectical Materialism
- Chaos Theory

OR

2) **Creation Story** - In groups students will choose a creation story from a mythical, religious, philosophical, or scientific tradition and present their research to the class. Each group must pick a different creation story. Grades will be based upon completion of a research information sheet and a 4-6 minute group presentation. Groups will use any accessible digital medium (Google Slides, Prezi, Padlet, etc...) to show their story. Specifically, groups should answer:

- What is your creation story “saying” (literally, philosophically, metaphorically)?
- What does your creation story say about the nature of reality?
- What metaphysical theory is similar to your creation story?

-How does the story impact psychology or culture today?

assessment

Due Date: Every Friday by 11:59PM Weekly

Minutes for Completion: ~15 per week

_____ **Weekly Exit Ticket**– Beginning on September 4th, weekly throughout the quarter students will submit a written OR audio recorded lesson takeaway as that week’s exit ticket consisting of at minimum a couple sentences reflecting on what stood out most to them during that week’s lectures, readings, activities, or assignments and why.

Due Date: Oct. 22nd/23rd

Minutes for Completion: ~120 to prepare for discussion

_____ **Socratic Seminar on “The Problem of Evil”** - Our first Socratic Seminar of the year will be based on a major issue in theology, “the problem of evil”. Grades will be based upon dialogue participation (speaking) and submission of a post discussion individual reflection and self evaluation.

readings

Lawhead, William F. The philosophical journey: An interactive approach. 5th ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education, 2011.

links

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy - <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - <https://plato.stanford.edu/>