**Theory of Knowledge**

**AOK – Ethics Plan/Calendar**

Testing starts at the end of next week, so looking ahead for your planning, our Ethics unit will fall into three segments:

* Part One will happen before IB Testing (April 24 – May 2nd)
  + We will read the assigned texts below and have in-class discussions
* Part Two will happen during IB Testing (May 3 – May 24th)
  + We will watch Seasons 1 and 2 of *The Good Place,* Michael Schur, NBC.
  + Can be found on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, KCLS or make an appointment with me
* Part Three will happen after IB Testing (May 27 – May 30th)
  + We may view The Minority Report and prepare for our Ethics Unit Assessment (open note)

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will continue our Ethics unit by introducing several philosophers and their ideas.  We will start this process by discussing Immanuel Kant’s [Categorical Imperative](kant-categorical-imperative.docx), introducing John Stuart Mill’s[Utilitarianism](Utilitarianism%20%20Mill%20color%20with%20comments.docx), and exploring Jeremy Bentham’s [Hedonistic Calculus](bentham-combined-chapters-1-2-4.docx).

The Ethics portion of the TOK journal will be important.  **Your next TOK Journal check will be the day of our Ethics Unit Assessment – likely May 28th or 30th**.  Your Ethics portion of your TOK Journal is significant for several reasons:

* You will need to submit a quality Journal
* You will need to review and understand this material for the Unit Assessment as well as the Final Exam.  The Unit Assessment will cover this material and ask you to make comparisons between these thinkers, the assigned readings, the film ***Minority Report***, and material you’ve learned throughout the year.
* Your Final Exam for Semester 2 may require the same and it will ask you to read excerpts from these texts and then:
  + identify the author
  + specify the main point
  + recognize the philosophy
  + compare this ideology to others you’ve learned

What sorts of applications will you be encouraged to think about on the test – both the Ethics Unit and Final? Issues raised by complaints against the current administration? What about [human genomes](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/04/16/712402435/first-u-s-patients-treated-with-crispr-as-gene-editing-human-trials-get-underway)?  Or [the Death Penalty](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/08/13/drug-companies-dont-want-to-be-involved-in-executions-so-theyre-suing-to-keep-their-drugs-out/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8fc0cabfd28b)?  **What will the format be?  Will it be a dialogue test? Possibly.  Essay? Possibly. This assessment will happen the week of May 27.**

When you’ve received (or been assigned) the texts, be sure to do all the things good critical thinkers do when they analyze and react to a text [for your journal]:

* identify important passages
* paraphrase relevant/main points
* react in the margin
* identify the author’s assumptions
* consider and address the implications of the argument

Below are several required readings.  All Required readings have the word **Required** after the selection (please note that two required elements are ones you will read, mark, and react to).  **If time allows**, we will do more than the required, we will do all of the assignments below.

1. 4/24  [Kant – Categorical Imperative](kant-categorical-imperative.docx)**Required**.
2. 4/25  [Mill – Utilitarianism](Utilitarianism%20%20Mill%20color%20with%20comments.docx)**Required.**
3. 4/26  [Bentham – Hedonistic Calculus](bentham-combined-chapters-1-2-4.docx)& related questions **Required.**
4. 4/30  [Aristotle – Virtue Theory Primary Source](aristotle%20ethics%20primary%20source.pdf)**Required**.  Recommend Aristotle [overview](virtue-theory.pdf) (it’s helpful, check it out)
5. 5/2 – pick one of the following:
   1. [Exodus – Divine Command Theory](text-of-the-ten-commandments.docx)
   2. [Thoreau – Civil Disobedience](civil-disobedience-abridged.docx)
   3. [Leopold – Environmental Ethics](aldo-leopoldenvironment.docx)

In addition to the above **required** critical readings, please add written responses to the following into you TOK Journal. **IF YOU WERE ABSENT on the assigned day, please invest at least 20 minutes writing thoughtfully in your response**.  This is not a place to be brief; consider that your response should represent the equivalence (in thought) of a thirty minute discussion.

**1. (4/24 in-class) How do we know right from wrong? What is the source of your certainty?  Is it a person?  Your self?  A process?  A text?  What are the challenges to knowing what is morally right in this manner?**

**2. (4/25 in-class) What makes us human?   Is it our ability to reason?  To feel emotions?  To care about others? To do something selfless?**

2a. (4/26) How would Bentham consider right and wrong?  How do we figure it out?

**3. (4/29) Is it ever right for a few to suffer for the greater good?**  What if we had to make a few suffer?  Would it be right to do so if the society benefited?  How should we deal with an epidemic?

4. **(4/30) Discussion: Do the ends (ever) justify the means?  (Required) Explain your rationale.**

5. **(5/2)** **Is cheating ever right?**   Please justify your answer.  And then interview/discuss the subtleties of your viewpoint with a willing adversary