Description of Course:
This course explores the relationships among the various disciplines and ensures that students engage in critical reflection and analysis of the knowledge acquired within and beyond the classrooms. Bonus points may be awarded by IB examiners for the combined performance of the extended essay and performance in Theory of Knowledge.

Course Purpose:
To provide a broad introductory overview of the various types of human knowledge, the means by which that knowledge is acquired and communicated, and its reliability and limitations.

Reading Focus:
Students are required to read literature, articles, etc… concerning knowledge in the world today – existing knowledge, changing knowledge, various types of knowledge. Those articles are analyzed and discussed at length.

Classroom Discussion Guidelines
Due to the nature of TOK, the class is based on whole class discussion. THIS IS A SAFE SPACE for EVERYONE. Therefore the following guidelines are to be adhered to:
- Respect for people’s physical and intellectual property is required.
  - Many different viewpoints and opinions will be expressed in this class. Unless all can expect their knowledge and beliefs to be respected, the free expression and dialogue this class requires will not be able to flourish.
- Turn off and put away cell phones, i-devices, kindles, and other electronic devices unless directed to.
- Follow directions
- Use proper language & manners

IB Official TOK Aims:
- Develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge as a human endeavor, and an understanding of the empowerment that follows from reflecting upon it.
- Develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed, by communities and individuals
- Encourage students to reflect on their experiences as learners, in everyday life and the IB program, and to make connections between academic disciplines and between thoughts, feelings, and actions.
- Encourage a diversity of ways of thinking and ways of living of individuals and communities, and an awareness of personal and theological assumptions, including participants’ own.
- Encourage consideration of the responsibilities originating from the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual as a citizen of the world.

IB Official TOK Objectives:
Students should be able to:
- Analyze critically knowledge claims, their underlying assumptions and their implications
- Generate questions, explanations, conjectures, hypotheses, alternative ideas and possible solutions in response to knowledge issues concerning areas of knowledge, ways of knowing and students’ own experience as learners
- Demonstrate an understanding of different perspectives on knowledge issues
- Draw links and make effective comparisons between different approaches to knowledge issues that derive from areas of knowledge, ways of knowing, theoretical positions and cultural values
- Demonstrate an ability to give a personal, self-aware response to a knowledge issue
- Formulate and communicate ideas clearly with due regard for accuracy and academic honesty
The Importance of TOK

What makes up the TOK Grade?

TOK Essay (Senior Year) (67%):
- 10 Marks Possible
- Essay topic is selected from the six prescribed titles from IB
- Maximum length is 1,600 words

TOK Exhibit (Junior Year) (33%):
- 10 Marks Possible
- Independently done
- Demonstrates the manifestation of TOK in the real world.

Grading Policy:

Formatives (40%):
- Weekly participation in discussions
- Daily journals: Students will select ONE journal entry to have read for quality points, other four journal entries need to be present and will be skimmed. (15pts per week)

Summative (60%):
- TOK Exhibit; point value will vary for each assignment
- TOK Essays; point value will vary for each assignment

Teacher’s Authority to Override Final Grade: A teacher may override the final grade if a student’s overall performance warrants it. Before the grade override is finalized, the teacher must notify the parent/guardian concerning the student’s performance if the override may result in a lower final grade. The teacher may issue a failing grade override based on the student’s overall performance only with the approval of the principal.

Quarantine Protocol:
If you are quarantined due to Covid, you will need to monitor Canvas for assignments. Unfortunately, classroom instruction will not be viewable, which means classroom notes will need to be obtained from a classmate.

TOK Participation and Attendance:
Participation is a key grade, which will be earned through active involvement and constructive participation in what is occurring in the classroom. Points may not be earned if the student is: sleeping, doing work for another class, not respecting other’s viewpoints, not constructively participating, use or checking of cell phone or text messaging, or other disregard for rules. Because it is a ToK Week, it doesn’t mean that your attendance to class is optional. In order to encourage classroom attendance, at the end of the nine weeks students with five or few absences will earn an attendance award that allows the student to drop a formative grade of their choice.

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**Theory of knowledge**

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<th>Good B</th>
<th>Satisfactory C</th>
<th>Mediocre D</th>
<th>Elementary E</th>
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<td><strong>Good B</strong></td>
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F* From 2010 onwards 28 points overall will be required to be eligible for the diploma if a student attains an ‘E’ grade in either the extended essay or theory of knowledge.

As previously, a grade ‘A’ in one of the requirements earns an extra point even if the other is a grade ‘E’.

Attaining a grade ‘E’ in both the extended essay and theory of knowledge continues to represent an automatic failure.
Journals:
Journal writing is very important for the students to communicate their thoughts and ideas with the teacher. Journal writing will prepare the student for the External Assessment (essay) and the Internal Assessment (exhibit). The student’s input should be original, reflective, critical, and most of all, the thoughts of the knower (see learner profile). Points will be earned in part for the work’s quality in relating to TOK. During Senior year, Journals will be related to the Areas of Knowledge and will be written over several weeks. Journals are more like TOK essay practices rather than free thought. They will be scored using the TOK Essay Markscheme (Senior Year) and the TOK Exhibit Markscheme (Junior Year).

Viewing of PG-13 Movie Release
Often appropriate PG-13 movies or sections of PG-13 movies can be utilized effectively to enrich classroom instruction and accomplish identified objectives. If you give permission for your child to view such materials, you do not have to do anything. (NOTE: NO “R” rated movies will ever be shown per Volusia County School Board Policy). If you do NOT wish to grant permission for your child to view any PG-13 movies identified by the teacher as effective in teaching the curriculum, please contact me via email at labrinkm@volusia.k12.fl.us or send in a note with your student.