



Course Name	Instructor	Instructor E-mail & Availability
Law and Government	Owen Alexander	oalexander@aps.k12.co.us
Course Website	Class Meeting Times & Location:	Prerequisites
Google Classroom Code: qpjs8ej	Room 321	N/A

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to government which will cover a wide range of subject matter from the principles of governance to influencing policy at the local and state levels. In this course, students will explore the principles and purposes of government, the foundations, principles, and structures of American democracy, law and the justice system, learn to engage with and influence public policy, and engage in individualized project based learning to communicate their learning and or take action in the community. Students will regularly engage in discussion, analyze texts, evaluate sources and develop written arguments with a focus on evidence use and reasoning.

### Standards

Civics 4.1a-e, 4. 2a,c,d,e,f&g, 4.3a,b,c&f

### Learning Outcomes by Quarter

#### Quarter 1

##### Students can:

- Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question
- Analyze purpose of and limitations of the foundations, structures and functions of government.

#### Quarter 2

##### Students can:

- Use media literacy skills to locate multiple valid sources of information regarding the foundations, structures, and functions of government
- Analyze how public policy (domestic and foreign) is developed at the local, state, and national levels and compare how policy-making occurs in other forms of government

#### Quarter 3

##### Students can:

- Analyze how court decisions, legislative debates, and various and diverse groups have helped to preserve, develop, and interpret the rights and ideals of the American system of government
- Develop claims and counterclaims while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both

**Quarter 4****Students can:**

- Use analysis of sources to form personal opinions or arguments to either take or simulate civic action (such as writing a letter to government official or attending a city council or school board meeting)
- Research, formulate positions, and engage in appropriate civic participation to address local, state, and national issues or policies.

**Required Supplies**

A 3-Ring Binder and a writing utensil

**Grading**

Students will be graded on a 4 point scale for all assignments

Point	Letter Grade	Explanation
3.0-4.0	A	In addition to the performance score of 3.0, the student demonstrates in depth inferences and applications that extend beyond what was taught.
2.5-2.99	B	There are no major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught. This level is mastery
2.0-2.49	C	There are no major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes, but there are major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.
1.0-1.99	D	With help, the student demonstrates a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.
Below 1.0 or No Evidence	F	Even with help, the student cannot demonstrate understanding of the simple details.

**School Policies****REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK**

Students requiring homework assignments due to extended excused absences (three days or more) should initially contact the attendance office. The attendance office will notify teachers and collect assignments from individual teachers. Assignments should be ready for pick up 24 hours after a request has been made. Please call the attendance office to check homework status.

**MAKE-UP WORK DURING ABSENCES**

Any time a student misses a class for any reason whatsoever, that student will be expected to contact each teacher and complete the make-up work in order to achieve the learning objective. This includes field trips, school activities, suspensions, group sessions, truancies, and the like. Make-up work is required and students who have been absent from class must request make-up work from the teacher no later than the next class meeting. Teachers will determine a reasonable amount of time for make-up work when students are absent, using a two days for every one day absent guideline.

Teachers may provide an "alternative" learning experience for make-up work to any student who requests it upon returning to class. For example, a student may have been absent from a class at which the daily learning objective was achieved by means of a class discussion. At the teacher's sole discretion, students who were absent during that discussion might be assigned a two or three-page written essay due three or four days after the student's return to class as an 'alternative' learning experience for that objective.

Teachers will give academic credit to all make-up work that complies with the above guidelines. The only exception is that teachers have the choice whether or not to give academic credit to the make-up work from an unexcused absence. If the absence was unexcused, the teacher should provide feedback but is not required to give credit for the work.

TARDY POLICY

After three tardies teachers will conference with the student and contact home. After 5 tardies students can be referred to the Learning Center and additional consequences may be assigned.

PASSES

Students who leave the classroom or are excused from class must have a pass with correct validation by the teacher. School officials may send for a student using an authorized Administrative Pass. Students who are without official passes will be subject to disciplinary action. Passes will not be given in the first 10 minutes or last 10 minutes of class.

NON-ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES

Aurora Public Schools believes in providing environments that optimize learning and teaching and are safe, secure, and well maintained. As such, all personal electronic devices\* shall not be seen nor heard during the school day in academic areas of the building from 7:30 A.M. to 3:45 P.M. \*Cell phones, iPods, headphones, portable speakers, MP3s, tablets, cameras, etc. **Aurora Central High School is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices.** This includes electronic devices that are confiscated by staff. Aurora Central High School reserves the right to not investigate lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices.

**Classroom Policies**

1. No phones during class.
2. Be on time.
3. Come prepared for class!
4. Be kind and respectful.
5. Work hard to achieve your full potential!

**Tear off and return THIS PAGE only and return to \_\_\_\_\_(teacher).**

I have carefully read the expectations of this course and agree to support the goals and initiatives of the course. I will show up, speak up, stand up and go further than I ever thought possible.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_(print)

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_