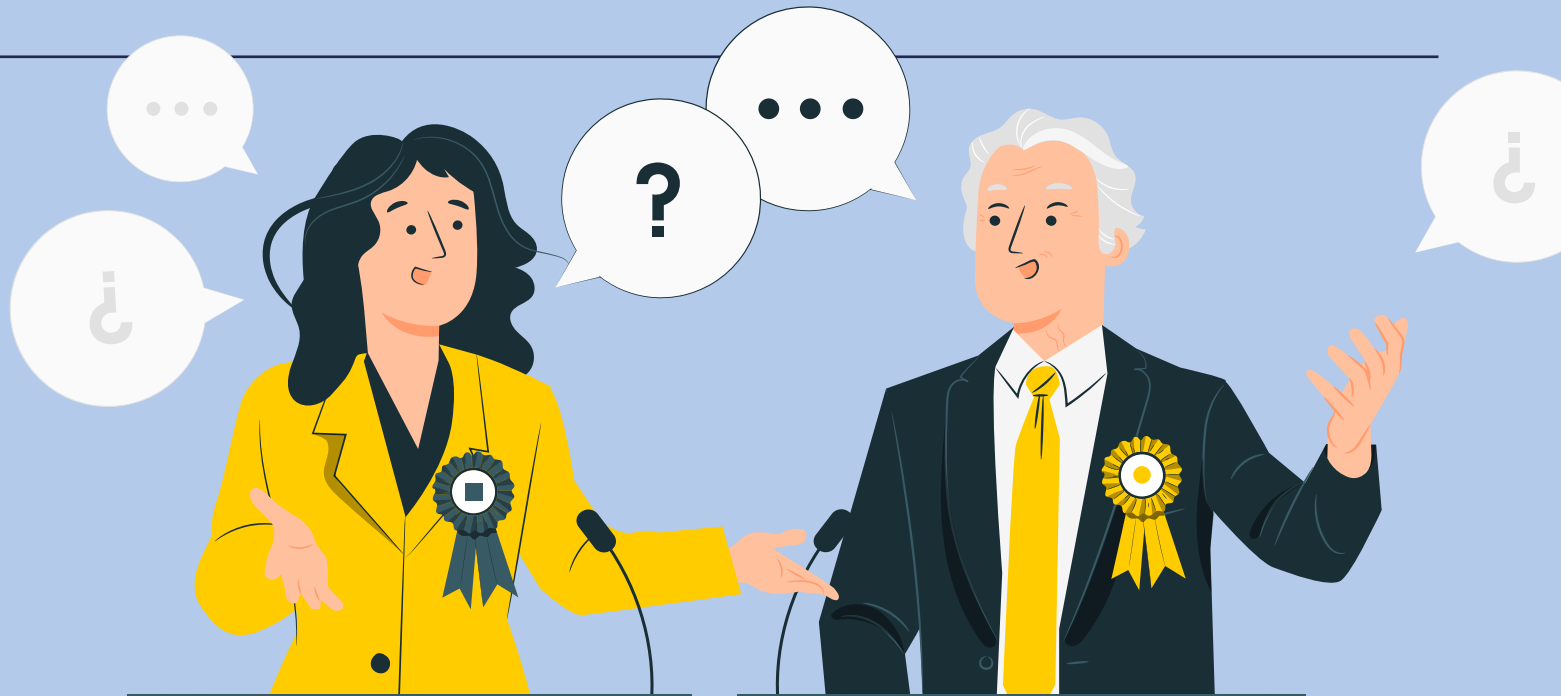

AberWorkshops: International Politics

Bringing our
academic experts
to your learners



What are AberWorkshops?

AberWorkshops give your learners an opportunity to learn and interact with our friendly and engaging academic staff.

Our teaching staff will deliver high quality subject content to your learners, with the aim of not only increasing students' knowledge of the subject matter, but also encouraging them to consider future study within the discipline of International Politics.

We have a variety of academic-focussed lectures/ workshops in a number of different topic areas. Whilst all sessions are subject to availability, AberWorkshops are:



Flexible in duration



Suitable for small and large audiences



Deliverable to Year 12-13



Available virtually



Available face to face in school / college



Available to be delivered on Aberystwyth University campus



Open to learners with no prior knowledge of the subject, as well as those with an interest in the field. Learners do not need to be studying International Politics in school or college



To make a booking or find out more, e-mail aberworkshops@aber.ac.uk

An introduction to the Department of International Politics

Founded in 1919, this was the first Department of International Politics anywhere in the world! It was created at a time of great turmoil and uncertainty to study and promote security, peace and justice. The research and teaching in the Department today continue to focus on these important issues.

We combine a global reputation for innovative thinking about politics and international relations with a close-knit community of staff and students. Our staff teach on their area of expertise, so students learn about the latest topics and exciting ideas.

Our courses are flexible and diverse. We offer degree schemes in politics and international relations, as well as climate change, military history and strategy,

intelligence and security. Our modules are equally diverse: students choose from around 20 modules per year in years two and three, tailoring their curriculum to suit their interests. Students can also join our annual Crisis Simulation Game, spend a semester studying abroad, and see politics close up via the Parliamentary Placement Scheme in Westminster or the Senedd. All these schemes put learning into practice and enhance student employability!



International Politics

AberWorkshops

Crisis of Democracy in the USA? – Dr. Jenny Mathers / Dr Lucy Taylor

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America is often upheld as a beacon of democracy, but recent events have revealed serious challenges, both to US democratic institutions and to America's culture of democracy. This workshop explores the US political system, and its flaws, through a discussion of key contemporary themes. These are: rise of populism; polarization in political parties; race and representation; women's rights and the abortion debate. Fully interactive, this session looks behind the news headlines to explore the meaning of democracy and the relationship between state institutions and democratic culture.

A level Syllabus Themes: American politics; party systems; elections, Supreme Court; democratic culture.

Global Governance and Climate Change – Dr. Hannah Hughes

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This session will explore a key site of climate change governance - the annual Conference of the Parties or COP meetings. COPs are a key focal point in the governance of climate change where collective action between the world's governments is negotiated. A wide range of other actors also shape the global response, including environmental NGOs, youth activists, business groups and Indigenous Peoples. The session explores what goes on inside these meeting sites, showing how negotiations between countries are brokered and how civil society organizations try to influence the decisions made.

A level Syllabus Themes: Global Governance; International Organizations; Climate Change and UNFCCC.

Key:

EN Can be delivered in English

IP Can be delivered in person

CY Can be delivered through the medium of Welsh

V Can be delivered virtually



A United Kingdom? – Dr. Huw Lewis

While almost unthinkable a generation ago, today there is serious debate regarding whether the UK union can survive. This is due to diverse factors, including: the rise of independence movements (especially in Scotland, but also in Wales); growing interest in reunification across the island of Ireland; and even a sense among certain English voters that England is treated unfairly within the union. Political and constitutional divisions have also been heightened by Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. Using interactive methods, this session examines the arguments advanced by key participants in this debate, such as Nicola Sturgeon, Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and Mark Drakeford. It explores their different visions for the future of the United Kingdom and invites students to evaluate their proposals.

A level Syllabus Themes: UK's unwritten constitution; Parliamentary sovereignty; devolution; nationalism and unionism in different parts of the UK.

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Russian Ambition and the Ukraine Conflict – Dr. Tom Vaughan

How can we understand the motivations behind Russia's invasion of Ukraine? Over the past year, news stories and pundits have often focused on Vladimir Putin's personal ambitions or psychological state in explaining Russia's actions. These might be part of the answer – but what else could be at play? In this interactive workshop, we'll dig deeper and explore why states go to war in the 21st century, some of the possible explanations for Russia's behaviour, and whether there are any prospects for peace in Ukraine.

A level Syllabus Themes: Global Politics; Significance of emerging powers (Russia); contemporary global issues (conflict).

EN

IP

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Can we control nuclear weapons? – Dr. Tom Vaughan

The Ukraine conflict has been a stark reminder that nuclear weapons are still relevant in world politics. Russia's nuclear threats have sparked fresh conversations about the risk of nuclear conflict and the role that nuclear weapons play for states and their security in the 21st century. In this interactive workshop, we'll investigate the historic role of nuclear weapons in preserving or threatening peace, nuclear 'near misses', and the dangers that nuclear weapons still pose today. We'll question whether nuclear weapons are still useful or necessary, and whether nuclear disarmament can ever be feasible.

A level Syllabus Themes: Global governance; International Organizations; contemporary global issues (conflict).

EN

IP

V



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Designed and produced by Global Marketing and Student
Recruitment, Aberystwyth University 2023.

