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# AberWorkshops: International Politics

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Bringing our  
academic experts  
to your learners



# What are AberWorkshops?

AberWorkshops give your learners an opportunity to learn from, question and even challenge 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 disciplines 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

12-13

Deliverable to year groups 12-13



Available virtually



Available face to face in school or 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](mailto:aberworkshops@aber.ac.uk)

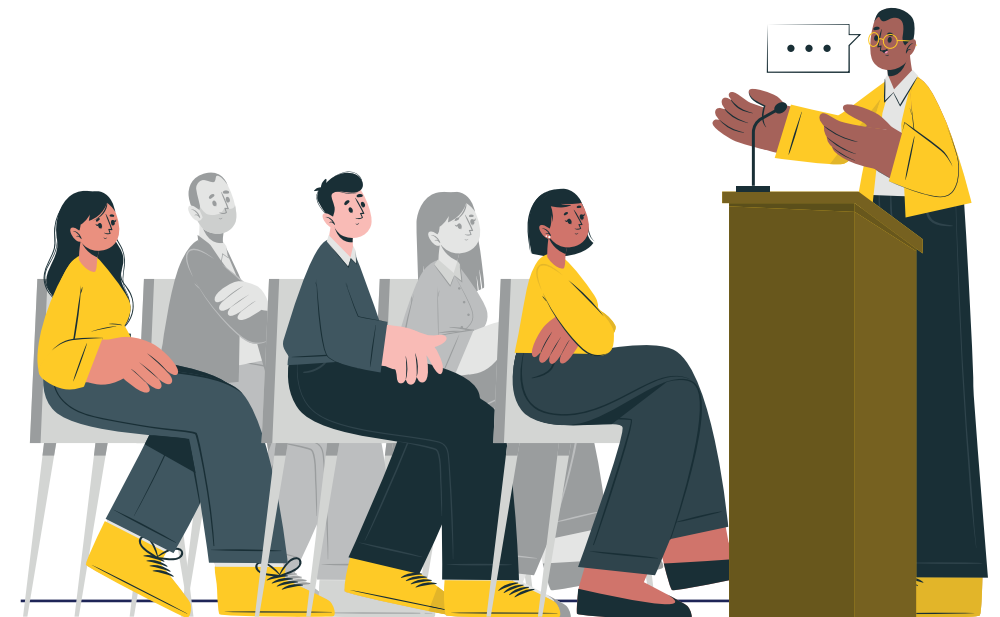
# An introduction to the Department of International Politics

**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

### The Crisis of the Liberal International Order and what might come next – Dr Kamila Stullerova

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The US-led International Order is being challenged from two sides. First, it is the challenges posed by US rivals, most notably China and Russia. Second, it is internal dissatisfaction with liberal democracies and their role in international politics, as expressed by multiple democratic publics at least since 2016. Are we to conclude that the era of the Liberal International Order is over and international politics will be ordered by different values, institutions and principles than those associated with post-WW2 liberalism: human rights, free trade, international law and fear of the power of nuclear weapons? In this workshop, we'll explore these questions.

**A level Syllabus Themes:** Global Politics, contemporary global issues (conflict), sovereignty and globalisation, political ideas.

### Covert actions and targeted assassinations: a global perspective – Dr Aviva Guttman

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When the head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in Iran in July 2024, everybody knew that Israel's secret intelligence agency, Mossad, was behind it. This is a prime example of a covert action that on purpose left a trail to its perpetrator. In this interactive workshop, students are introduced to concepts in intelligence studies such as "implausible deniability" and discuss practices of targeted killings around the world.

**A level Syllabus Themes:** contemporary global issues (conflict), sovereignty and globalisation, human rights, comparative theories.

### Crisis of Democracy in the USA? – Dr. Jenny Mathers

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America is often upheld as a beacon of democracy, but events in recent years have revealed serious challenges, both to US democratic institutions and to America's culture of democracy. This workshop explores the US political system through a discussion of key contemporary themes. These are: the polarization between the two main political parties; voter rights and voter suppression; and the implications of 6 January 2021. 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:** Government and politics of the USA; electoral process and direct democracy; political parties; civil rights.

### Key:

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Can be delivered in English

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Can be delivered virtually



## A United Kingdom? – Dr Elin Royles

While almost unthinkable a generation ago, today there is 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 were also heightened by Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. Using interactive methods, this session examines different arguments advanced in support of the unity of the United Kingdom advanced by prominent politicians including Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak, Gordon Brown 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 aggression against Ukraine and the role of nuclear weapons – Dr Jan Ruzicka

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? The Ukraine conflict has also 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 workshop, we'll 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).

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