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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 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

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)

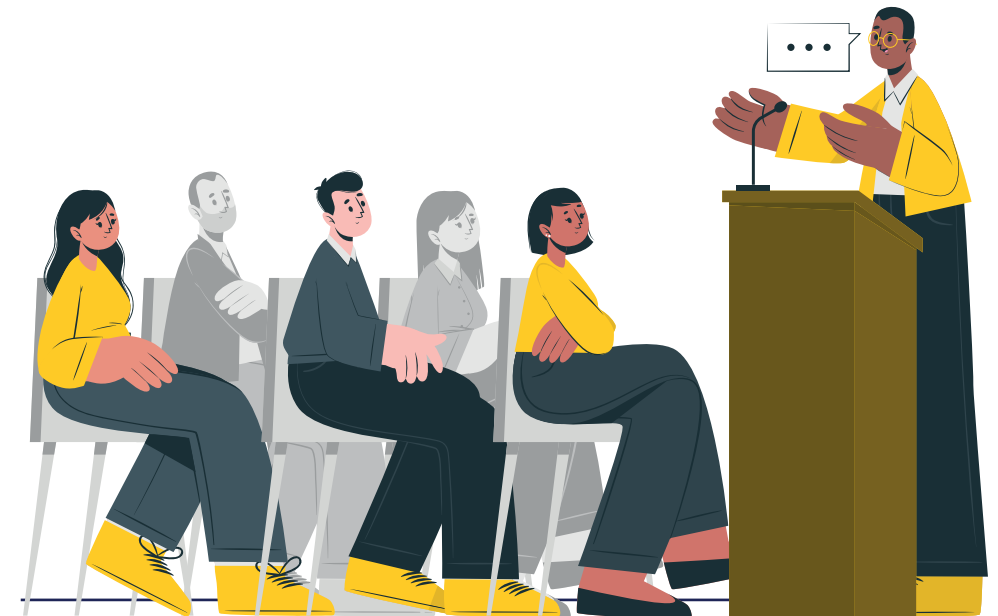
# An introduction to the Department of International Politics

**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 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

### Peace-making in the Middle East – Dr Jim Vaughan

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Why has peace in the Middle East been so difficult to achieve? The Arab-Israeli dispute has proved to be one of the most intractable, high-profile and emotive conflicts of the post-World War II era. It has expanded beyond its immediate territoriality to draw in other regional powers, global superpowers, the United Nations, NGOs, and activists and campaigners from around the world. Today we see issues at the heart of this dispute influencing the Israeli-Palestinian and Iranian-Israeli conflicts. This interactive workshop will explore the complex dynamics of Middle Eastern conflict, identify the core issues and stumbling blocks at the heart of the peace process, and imagine alternative solutions for the peoples of the region.

**A level Syllabus Themes:** Sovereignty; Nation state; Non-state actors; Globalisation; Global governance; The United Nations

### Trade Wars and Current Crises in International Politics – Dr Charalampos Efsthopoulos

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International trade plays a vital role in economic globalisation and shapes the world that we live in. Trade wars have intensified since the re-election of Donald Trump and his practice of initiating tariff barriers against numerous countries. This workshop examines current issues and crises around trade and places them in a wider historical and political context. The interactive session will explore key turning points in the history of the multilateral trading system and its institutions before turning to the causes of trade wars, highlighting the political as well as the economic reasons for their emergence, and the dilemmas that they create for the US, China, the EU and the UK.

**A level Syllabus Themes:** Globalisation; Nation state; Global governance; North-South divide; World Trade Organisation

### Key:

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Can be delivered in English

IP

Can be delivered in person

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Can be delivered through the medium of Welsh

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Can be delivered virtually

### Crisis of Democracy in the USA?

#### – Dr. Jenny Mathers

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America is often upheld as a beacon of democracy, but since Donald Trump returned to the White House in January 2025, some of his actions, such as the extensive use of Executive Orders and the creation and functioning of DOGE (the Department of Government Efficiency), have raised serious questions about whether this administration is acting within the bounds of the Constitution. This workshop about the US political system uses current issues to explore key institutions of US politics, examining the extent and limits of their powers and responsibilities and considering short- and long-term shifts in America's democratic culture. Fully interactive, this session looks behind the news headlines to operation of American democracy in practice.

**A level Syllabus Themes:** American politics; Bill of Rights; US Congress; the US President at home and abroad; political parties in the US; the US Supreme Court



## 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? 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

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

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