

# DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL CHANGE



## AWAY WEEKEND 2011

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS  
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CAER LLAN, MONMOUTHSHIRE  
4-6 NOVEMBER 2011

UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTMINSTER

# DPIR Away Weekend 2011

Spend the weekend in the heart of the beautiful British countryside talking politics and having fun with your student colleagues and Politics and IR staff. Accommodation, food and travel will all be provided for an all inclusive fee of only £70!

Following the very successful DPIR staff and student Away Weekends to Wales and Yorkshire, we are organising another weekend for 2011.

We will be staying in a beautiful country house called **Caer Llan** in Monmouthshire which is just over 2 and a half hours by coach from Wells Street.

The Away Weekend will be an excellent opportunity for you to get to know your fellow students and members of staff. You will also have the chance to explore current thinking in politics and IR through discussions, debates and staff presentations.

The theme of this year's Away Weekend will be 'Democracy and Political Change'. It aims to examine the theme of democracy through our three research strands within the Department of Politics and International Relations:

Democracy (Centre for the Study of Democracy)

Sustainability (Governance and Sustainability Programme)

International Security (Security and International Relations Programme)

We will be staying in a country house set in 25 acres of garden, field and woodland in an 'area of outstanding natural beauty' around Wye Valley. The accommodation is shared rooms. For further information about the venue, see [www.caerllan.co.uk](http://www.caerllan.co.uk). There will be opportunities for us to explore the local area and spend some time by the quaint open fire.

For the nominal fee of £70 (thanks to a subsidy from DPIR) you will get accommodation, all meals, and coach travel to and from Caer Llan, leaving on Friday late morning and return on Sunday afternoon.

Last year's trip was not only academically successful; it was also a lot of fun. We hope that you will want to be involved!



*Caer Llan country house*



*Picture from the 2009 away weekend in Yorkshire*

# Democracy and Political Change

During our discussions at the 2011 away weekend, we will explore the following questions through discussion, debate, Q&A sessions, competitions, film, staff presentations, and with a guest speaker:

- What are the prospects for more democracy here and abroad?
- Are you optimistic or pessimistic? Is democracy working, triumphant or in crisis?
- Why are policy makers and politicians calling for more democracy?
- Should the West do more to promote democracy?
- What problems currently confront representative democracy?
- Do we need to develop alternatives such as deliberative democracy, social enterprises and democratic organisations?
- Do new technologies and social media help or hinder democracy?
- What are the barriers to more participation and citizen empowerment?

We will also have plenty of time to take a break from these debates, including some walking and exploring the local countryside.



*Pictures from last year's away weekend at Caer Llan*

# BOOKING FORM

## *Democracy and Political Change*

Surname

First Name

Student no.

Year of study

Degree

Home Address

Mobile no.

Email

Emergency Contact name and telephone

Do you have any special dietary requirements?

Do you consider that you have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010?  
If so, please provide details of any special adjustments you require for the weekend.

Signed

Date

**PLEASE FIRSTLY RETURN THIS FORM TO SUZY ROBSON (ROOM 516, WELLS STREET 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR). YOU WILL THEN BE GIVEN DETAILS OF HOW TO MAKE YOUR £70 NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT WHICH IS REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING.**