

Democracies and Elections Conference

Comparing the UK and USA

Inviting sixth form students to get a taste of political study and university life. The conference includes:

- Keynote speech from a US Embassy Diplomat
- Presentations from the university's politics lecturers
- Workshop led by undergraduate students
- Optional session: Preparing for university and writing effective personal statements

Thursday **15 July 2010 10am - 3.30pm**

Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University CT1 1QU

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Programme for Thursday 15 July 2010

9.00 - 10.00	Registration
9.30 - 10.15	Welcome and introduction
10.15 - 10.45	Democracy - What is it? Dr David Bates CCCU <i>What is democracy and what does it mean when applied in practice? How is democracy enacted through informal and formal mechanisms? How democratic are the UK and USA?</i>
10.45 - 11.15	Elections - Why do we have them? Dr Laura Cashman (CCCU) <i>Why do elections take place? Why do different countries use different electoral systems? What are the consequences of these choices? How democratic are UK and US electoral systems? What would electoral reform mean in reality?</i>
11.15 - 11.30	BREAK
11.30 - 12.30	Workshop CCCU undergraduate politics students <i>How do electoral systems impact on voting patterns and election outcomes?</i>
13.00 - 14.00	BREAK FOR LUNCH*
13.30 - 14.30	Plenary session with Keynote Speaker (US Embassy) <i>Perspectives from the USA</i>
14.30 - 15.30	Optional session – Guidance on applying to university <i>This session will focus on preparing students for university with a special focus on writing effective personal statements</i>

*Students will be able to purchase lunch from the Refectory or they may wish to bring packed lunches.

Places are limited so please contact us without delay to find out more or to reserve places: politics@canterbury.ac.uk