

Crime and the Criminal Mind

Clare Lavelle - Level B2 - C1

Why is everyone so fascinated by crime and the criminal mind?



This subject has become a major feature of news and entertainment television whose primetime shows have included crime as a prominent feature in the past few decades. This course offers an opportunity to discover various types of crime and criminals through their portrayal in the media; to answer the challenging questions of why people commit crime and to venture into the scientific world of the criminologist; to discover the role of neurocriminology, its implications for punishment and crime prevention today. Students will also have the opportunity to play judge, jury, lawyer, plaintiff or defendant in our court case RP.

Areas of research include crime writers, the media and crime, film and crime, famous criminals and famous crimes, the funniest crimes, the strangest crimes and unsolved crimes, crime in politics, war crimes, corporate crime, new technologies and the birth of technological crimes. Using film, documentaries and new media, we will explore crimes across cultures and the differences in Anglo-Saxon legal systems.

Language objectives:

- New vocabulary acquisition
- Improve oral and written skills
- Improve listening and reading skills
- Practise discussing, debating, hypothesizing in English
- Opening new vistas for thought

Evaluation:

- **Active participation** (Crime talk shows, role plays, debates, etc.) - 25%
- **Homework assignments** (*The Perfect Crime* creative writing - 15% Film-viewings written commentaries) - 10%
- **Court case role play** - 30%
- **Student-led project** 20%