

## How to Succeed as a Crime Writer - From First Steps to Achieving Your Goal

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**Start date** Sat 6 March 2021**End date** Sun 7 March 2021**Venue** Virtual Classroom**Tutor** Sophie Hannah**Course code** 2021NDR237**Director of Academic Centres** Dr Corinne Boz**For further information on this course, please contact**Head of Academic Centre Administration, Sarah Blakeney  
[sarah.blakeney@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.blakeney@ice.cam.ac.uk)**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Sophie Hannah is a Sunday Times and New York Times bestselling writer of crime fiction, published in forty-nine languages and fifty-one territories. Her books have sold millions of copies worldwide. In 2014, with the blessing of Agatha Christie's family and estate, Sophie published a new Poirot novel, *The Monogram Murders*, which was a bestseller in more than fifteen countries. She has since published three more Poirot novels: *Closed Casket*, *The Mystery of Three Quarters* and *The Killings At Kingfisher Hill*, all of which were instant Sunday Times Top Ten bestsellers.

In 2013, Sophie's novel *The Carrier* won the Crime Thriller of the Year Award at the Specsavers National Book Awards. She has also published two short story collections and five collections of poetry – the fifth of which, *Pessimism for Beginners*, was shortlisted for the T S Eliot Award. Her poetry is studied at GCSE, A Level and degree level across the UK. Most recently, she has published a self-help book called *How to Hold a Grudge* and launched a podcast of the same name.

Sophie is the co-creator and Course Director for the University of Cambridge's Crime and Thriller Writing Master's degree programme at the Institute of Continuing Education. She is also the founder of the Dream Author Coaching programme for writers (<https://dreamauthorcoaching.com>). She lives with her family in Cambridge, where she is an Honorary Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College.

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## Course programme

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**DATE: Saturday 6 March 2021**

**Session 1: (10 am to 11.30 am) How to Write a Brilliant Crime Novel: The Basics**

**Session 2: (12 pm to 1 pm) How to Create Success**

**DATE: Sunday 7 March 2021**

**Session 3: (10 am to 11.30 am) From Starting Point to Denouement**

**Session 4: (12 pm to 1 pm) Goal-Setting and How to Get the Results You Want**

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## **Course syllabus**

### **Aims:**

This course aims to inspire anyone who wants to write brilliant crime fiction, and provide them with all the tools and concepts they need in order to do so.

- An understanding of what makes a successful crime novel or short story
- An insight into the world of crime publishing
- An awareness of the process of writing a piece of crime fiction and how to motivate themselves throughout the process
- A deeper grasp of how to sustain their career as a writer

### **Content will include:**

- How to think about your novel, before you even start it and while writing it, in order to maximise your chances of success.
- The Blurb-First/Story Promise approach to novel writing, and the 'Gnocchi' Method for planning and plotting your novel.
- The Difference Between Editing and 'Literary Diagnostics' - and why one is so much more powerful than the other
- The plot-first approach to character
- Perseverance: How to start, and how to carry on, writing your book
- How to deal with the outside world in relation to your thriller - agents, editors, self-publishing

### **Presentation of the course:**

4 Zoom sessions, as described above.

### **As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

Understand what's involved in writing a brilliant crime novel, and have a plan for how to set a goal and start taking steps towards it.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk \*

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Flynn, Gillian	<i>Gone Girl</i>	Weidenfeld, 2014
Hannah, Sophie	<i>Haven't They Grown</i>	Hodder, 2020
James, P D	<i>Innocent Blood</i>	Faber & Faber, 2006
Watson, S J	<i>Before I Go To Sleep</i>	Transworld, 2011

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## Additional information

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### What you will need

The course is open to anyone, however it is taught via a virtual classroom. You will be able to see, hear and interact with your classmates and the tutor. In order to participate you will need to have a laptop, computer, tablet or other device equipped with a camera (webcam), speakers and a microphone.

Full instructions and support on the use of the software will be given on request.

### Venue

This course takes place online using the teleconferencing software ZOOM.

If you have any queries about the software or accessing the course, please contact us by e-mailing [creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk).

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 8 February 21