Academic INSIGHTS

immerse EDUCATION

Criminology



AGES AND LOCATIONS

Ages 16-18: Oxford

Small classes, averaging 7 students.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Crime and justice, covering what counts as a crime, the aims of prison, research methods, the courts, and sentencing.

You'll learn how to evaluate the aims of punishment, design a research study, and argue a case for reform using evidence.

You'll leave with a completed personal project and a personalised tutor evaluation to draw on in university applications.



EXAMPLE TUTOR

Andrew L

DPhil candidate in Criminology, Lincoln College, University of Oxford; MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice (Distinction), Oxford; Law degree, University of Cambridge

Andrew is a guest lecturer in criminal law at UCL who previously worked as a trainee solicitor and a paralegal. He tailors each session to his students' interests and taught law and criminology with Immerse in 2026.

Criminology sample syllabus

Academic INSIGHTS

WEEK ONE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**Introduction to criminology** Ask what criminology is and what actually constitutes a crime.	**The aims of incarceration** Evaluate punishment, deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation as justifications.	**Quantitative research methods** Learn how numerical data reveals patterns and relationships in crime.	**Qualitative research methods** Use interviews and observation to understand lived experience of the justice system.	**Everyday welfare and administrative offences** Examine how people encounter justice through welfare-related offences.
PM	**Crime and punishment** Investigate the circumstances under which a crime leads to a prison sentence.	**Should all crimes lead to prison?** Debate alternatives to custody, including the case for and against abolishing prisons.	**Designing a quantitative study** Build your own research design and consider what it can and cannot show.	**1:1 tutorial** Talk to your tutor about the areas of criminology that interest you most, and get suggestions for reading and resources to take them further.	**Designing a qualitative study** Work in pairs to design a study applying the methods you have learned.
		Creativity masterclass Explore divergent, convergent, and lateral thinking, then use SCAMPER to generate and pitch original ideas.		**Personal project supervision** Choose a topic for your personal project, plan your research, and start shaping your presentation.	

WEEK TWO

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	**What happens in a courtroom?** Follow a criminal case and identify the participants and their functions.	**Critical criminology and sentencing** Ask why people convicted of the same crime can receive very different sentences.	**Crime and the family** Investigate how familial environments relate to offending and how the state intervenes.	**Media and the public image of crime** Assess how news, television, and social media shape views of crime and justice.	**Personal project presentations** Present your criminology personal project to your tutor and peers.
PM	**The role of the jury** Discuss the jury's historical significance and its contemporary challenges.	**Justice and socio-economic background** Assess whether the justice system disproportionately affects particular groups.	**Policing the family** Analyse case studies such as school non-attendance and the prosecution of parents.	**1:1 tutorial** Get feedback on your progress, and talk through your academic ambitions and the university courses and careers criminology can lead to.	**Personal project presentations (continued)** Respond to questions and discuss your peers' presentations.
	Critical thinking masterclass Examine the attention economy, echo chambers, logical fallacies, and cognitive bias, then debate a live issue.	**Guest speaker evening** Learn from an inspirational speaker from fields such as broadcasting, writing, philosophy, and sport, then question and debate.	**Personal project supervision** Finalise your research and slides and rehearse your presentation ready for Friday.		**Graduation ceremony** Certificates, speeches, and celebration.

Please note: this is an example syllabus and is subject to change.
Not shown: full evening and weekend social and cultural timetable.