

**Free course trailer**

*Crime fiction in French: le polar français*

**Bill Alder:**

Bonjour et bienvenue, hello and welcome to this preview of the free OpenLearn course Crime Fiction in French, le polar français.

My name is Bill Alder and I'm the lead author of this course. I'm an associate lecturer in French at the Open University and I've also authored books, articles and courses about crime fiction in French and other languages.

Crime fiction is the best-selling literary form in France and its study offers insights into how French-speaking societies have developed and how members of those societies perceive the world in which they live. The popular nature of crime fiction is also reflected in its use of authentic everyday language.

This course offers you around six hours of study in French at an advanced level on the topic of French crime fiction or Le Polar to give it its contemporary name. You'll discover the origins of French crime fiction in the mid-nineteenth century and observe how the form evolved over the subsequent one hundred and seventy years driven by changes in French society. You'll then consider whether crime fiction is simply a form of mass entertainment or whether it has produced, and continues to produce, novels and short stories of real literary quality.

You'll go on to read extracts from novels by Léo Malet and Jean-Claude Izzo, two of the leading exponents of the polar in the second half of the twentieth century. This will give you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with some important literary techniques and to reflect on the features of everyday spoken French in contrast to formal written language. Next, you'll encounter two current practitioners of crime fiction, Dominique Manotti and Karim Miské, with whom you'll consider the current status of the French polar and the challenges of translating it to other languages.

This free OpenLearn course is an adapted extract from the Open University course L332 French studies 3: Language and culture of the French-speaking world and most of the material is in French. The language level is Advanced, or equivalent to C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages. The material includes authentic video recordings and texts that underpin the interactive study activities which aim to develop your knowledge of contemporary French and your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in the language.

Whether you're already a fan of Le Polar or a student of French interested in discovering this fascinating literary form, we believe you'll find this course informative and rewarding. You can find out more by visiting the OpenLearn website here: [Languages - Free courses | OpenLearn - Open University](#)

We hope to see you soon on Crime Fiction in French, Le Polar français. Merci pour votre attention et à bientôt!