Chris Crowe Focuses on Civil Rights Era in USU Presentation | English

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Author Chris Crowe will be on the USU campus Friday, Oct. 28, at the Merrill-Cazier Library.

An award-winning young-adult writer who brings alive the Civil Rights era will speak Friday, October 28, at Utah State University’s Merrill-Cazier Library in room 101. Chris Crowe, author of such books as *Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case*, will speak as part of the Department of English Speaker Series. The event is also part of the Utah Humanities’ Book Festival. Crowe’s topics are:

- **12:30 p.m.:** “Civil Rights and Young Adult Literature.”
- **1:30 p.m.:** “Writing for Young Adults,” which Ben Gunsberg, assistant professor of English, described as a “craft talk.”

“This lecture could not be more timely,” said Joyce Kinkead. “The National Museum of African American History and Culture opened just last month, featuring an exhibit on Emmett Till’s murder, including his coffin. And, according to the *New York Times*, several films about Till are in the works.” (See [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/movies/in-era-of-black-lives-matter-films-focus-on-emmett-till-lynching.html?emc=eta1&_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/31/movies/in-era-of-black-lives-matter-films-focus-on-emmett-till-lynching.html?emc=eta1&_r=0)).

The English Education faculty, in choosing Chris Crowe, felt that he would be a terrific speaker, particularly for students in English Teaching and Creative Writing. Crowe is the author of several books, most notably *Mississippi Trial, 1955* which won several awards, including the 2003 International Reading Association’s Young Adult Novel Award. In addition to his book on

Emmett Till, other nonfiction books include a biography of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Crowe’s most recent book is *Death Comes Up the Hill* about a teenager dealing with the turmoil of 1968, a year that saw the assassination of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King and the escalation of the Vietnam War. The 2014 novel was named to the 2015 Best Fiction for Young Adults list by the American Library Association.