



# INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

**PROF. AYSHA IQBAL VISWAMOHAN**

Department of Human Resource Management  
IIT Madras

**TYPE OF COURSE** : Rerun | Elective | UG

**COURSE DURATION** : 12 weeks (18 Jan'21 - 9 Apr'21)

**EXAM DATE** : 24 Apr 2021

**COURSE OUTLINE :**

The course will focus on some important trends and genres in world cinema, along with key concepts in film studies. It aims to make participants familiar with some major international cinematic figures and films.

**ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Aysha Iqbal Viswamohan is professor of film studies, drama and popular culture in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. Among her several books are Behind the Scenes: Contemporary Bollywood Directors(ed.) Sage: New Delhi, 2017, Post-liberalization Indian Novels in English: Global Reception & Politics of Award London: ANTHEM, 2013. Her books on communication include English for Technical Communication, and English for Nurses and English for the Hotel Industry

**COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1 :** Course Overview ; Cinema & Semiotics ; Cinema & Semiotics Seven (1995); Plot in Cinema ; Conflict as a plot element ; Character as a plot element

**Week 2 :** Editing in Cinema ; Montage Jump-cut ; Realism in Cinema ; Colour : Theory & Practice ; Intertextuality Casablanca (1942) ,The Matrix (1999)

**Week 3 :** Cinema & Modernism :The Lumiere Brothers ,George Melies, Carl Dreyer , Charlie Chaplin ,Buster Keaton ; Cinema and Modernism :F.W. Murnau , Fritz Lang, Jean Cocteau ,Max Ophuls ;

**Week 4:** The French Masters: Jean Renoir , Robert Bresson , What is a canon? ; Canonical Text : Citizen Kane (1940) , The Godfather (1972/1974)

**Week 5:** The Academy Awards : Case study : My Left Foot (1989) and Daniel Day-Lewis , Method Acting ; Classic Hollywood : The Hay's Code ,The Studio Years , Major film makers , Major film makers ( George Stevens, WilliamWyler, BillyWilder, Elia Kazan, George Cukor ) Melodrama , Major film makers , Melodrama: Cinema of Douglas Sirk

**Week 6:** German Expressionism Film noir : Case study: Otto Preminger's Laura (1944) Neo-noir ; Case study: Martin Scorsese's Taxi Driver (1976)

**Week 7:** Stars as Icons , Case study: The Stardom of James Dean Fandoms ; Cinema and the Counter culture Movement : The Beat Generation ,Woodstock Nation Easy Rider (1968)

**Week 8:** Italian cinema : Italian Neo-Realism ,Italian Masters ; Japanese Cinema : Major Filmmakers , Major Trends ; Auteur Theory in the USA : Andrew Sarris , Alfred Hitchcock

**Week 9:** Auteur Theory in the USA : Alfred Hitchcock as an Auteur Casestudy: Rope (1948) , New Hollywood ,Major filmmakers Major texts , Major filmmakers , Major texts ; The French Connection (1971) - Case study : opening sequence of Mean Streets(1973)

**Week 10:** Newhollywood: Major filmmakers, Major texts , The End of the New Hollywood , George Lucas and Steven Spielberg New Hollywood Auteur: Woody Allen Case study: Manhattan (1979 )

**Week 11:** Cinema and Genres : Dudley Andrews Rick Altman , Gangster as a Genre , Genre Blending and Genre Bending ,Quentin Tarantino's films ; Postmodernism and Cinema : Key Theorists, Linda Hutcheon ,Ihab Hasan , Fredric Jameson , Case study: Face /off (1997), The self-conscious cinema, Natural Born Killers Wag the Dog

**Week 12:** The Western :The Westerns of Sam Peckinpah ,The Myth of the American West , No Country for Old Men (2007) , There Will be Blood (2007)