INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

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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 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 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