INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

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Department of Human Resource Management
IIT Madras

TYPE OF COURSE: Rerun | Core | UG/PG
COURSE DURATION: 12 weeks (29 Jul’19 - 20 Sep’19)
EXAM DATE: 16 Nov 2019

PREREQUISITES: Students are expected to be aware of some of the important international cinematic trends, movements and genres as well as filmmakers.

COURSE OUTLINE:
The objective of this course is to enable students to understand the language of cinema and to help them recognize significant film movements and theories as well as filmmakers who have shaped the course of world cinema, along with a reading of key cinematic texts.

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