



# INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES

**PROF. AVISHEK PARUI**

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
IIT Madras

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

**COURSE DURATION** : 12 weeks (24 Jan' 22 - 15 Apr' 22)

**EXAM DATE** : 24 Apr 2022

**PRE-REQUISITES** : B.A in English or Cultural Studies

**INTENDED AUDIENCE** : B.A/M.A. students of English and Cultural Studies

**COURSE OUTLINE :**

This course intends to examine culture, cultural identities and politics of production across various human historical conditions. Culture is examined in this course as an asymmetrical entanglement of material and abstract attributes and hence the course draws on political theory, psychology and critical theory, among other disciplines, in order to investigate the constructed categories of identity, authority and knowledge.

**ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :**

Prof. Avishek Parui is Assistant Professor in English at IIT Madras and Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy. He researches and supervises PhDs on medical humanities, masculinity studies, memory studies and postmodernism. His recent book Postmodern Literatures, has been published by Orient Blackswan.

**COURSE PLAN :**

**Week 1:** What is Culture? Culture and Cultural Identities, Values, Key lenses for Culture Studies

**Week 2:** Edward Said's Orientalism, Homi Bhabha's 'The Other Question'

**Week 3:** Homi Bhabha's 'The Other Question'(cont'd), George Orwell's 'Shooting an Elephant'

**Week 4:** George Orwell's 'Shooting an Elephant'(cont'd), Lyotard's The Postmodern Condition

**Week 5:** Lyotard's The Postmodern Condition(cont'd), Frantz Fanon's Black Skin White Masks

**Week 6:** Frantz Fanon's Black Skin White Masks(cont'd), Judith Butler's Gender Trouble

**Week 7:** Judith Butler's Gender Trouble(cont'd), Hannah Arendt's The Human Condition

**Week 8:** Hannah Arendt's The Human Condition(cont'd), Michel Foucault's 'What is an Author?'

**Week 9:** Michel Foucault's 'What is an Author?'(cont'd), Ian Hacking's The Social Construction of What?

**Week 10:** Ian Hacking's The Social Construction of What?(cont'd), bell hooks' 'Understanding Patriarchy'

**Week 11:** bell hooks' 'Understanding Patriarchy'(cont'd), Slavoj Zizek's Welcome to the Desert of the Real

**Week 12:** Slavoj Zizek's Welcome to the Desert of the Real(cont'd), Conclusion to the Course