

# ***Decoding “The Matrix”***

Instructor - Krishna Bagadiya

Levels B1 - C1



Behind the veil of a science fiction blockbuster, *The Matrix (1999)* is one of the most seminal films of recent times. It uses elements of comparative mythology inspired by the work of anthropologist Joseph Campbell, considered the “Yoda” (mentor) of George Lucas. Through in-depth film analysis (image, sound, script) and tracing its sources of inspiration (Japanese, Hong Kong, American), this course aims to uncover layers of symbolism (Buddhist, Hindu, Gnostic, Marxist) in the film.

## **Films:**

*The Matrix Trilogy* (1999, 2003) by Andy and Larry Wachowski

*Animatrix* (2003), *Terminator 2* (1992) by James Cameron

*Akira* (1988) by Katsuhiro Otomo, *Ghost in the Shell* (1995) by Mamoru Oshii

*The Power of Myth* (1988) PBS documentary

## **Reading:**

*The Hero With a Thousand Faces* (1958) by Joseph Campbell

## **Grading:**

Class Participation 40% + Presentation (& scene analysis) 40% + Blog post (philosophy) 20%

## **Autonomy:**

A blog will be created by the class with different philosophies which can be read into the Matrix.