Until recently, Iranian cinema was considered one of the best in the world of non-Hollywood cinema. Now, however, Turkish cinema appears to have taken over. Turkey produces more than 70 films every year, and domestic commercial productions have long taken the top spots in rankings. The country itself is undergoing fascinating transformations, being torn between provincial backwardness and cosmopolitan Istanbul; between Asian tradition and aspirations for Europeanization; and between the customs of a Kurdish minority, peoples from the Black Sea, Greeks and Armenians.

This survey of contemporary Turkish cinema is designed to help students learn about the developments in the world of contemporary non-Hollywood cinema.