

## **Fall 2019 Course Descriptions**

**Instructor:** Nandini Bhattacharya

**Course:** ENGL 481

**Title:** Senior Seminar: New Asian Voices

**Description:** A study of major South Asian/diasporic writers. This course will reveal the wealth of new writing in English coming out of South Asia that is beginning to transform and in some instances dominate the international literary world.

Since Salman Rushdie's meteoric rise and eventful career, South Asia has produced many more writers who speak to the human condition as we experience it in a world now understood as global. In some cases, however, they are still little known in the American academy. This course will give our graduating majors a powerful sense of what the world looks like from the perspective of what is now known as the world's largest "illiberal" democracy (India) as well as its Siamese twin separated at birth (Pakistan). The geopolitical role of these regions in American foreign relations will be explored via cultural production.

The emphasis will be on genre and aesthetics, especially on the aesthetics of affect. There will be a focus on how aesthetic and generic choices reflect authors' visions of intimate as well as "marketized" or "monetized" relations. A history of affective expression in Indian cultural production and its relation to western theories of affect will be considered, and the authors represented will be also studied contrastively.

**Proposed Readings:** Lahiri, Anam, Mahajan, etc.