



# SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE AND FILM | 1990 – PRESENT

COURSE DATES: MAY 30TH - JUNE 4TH, 2022.

ORGANIZED BY: DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, MNIT JAIPUR, INDIA | WWW.MNIT.AC.IN

## COURSE OVERVIEW

South Asian Literature has received unprecedented critical attention since the publication of Salman Rushdie's breakthrough novel *Midnight's Children* (1981), the Booker Prize wins of Anita Desai, Rohinton Mistry and Kiran Desai, and the runaway success of Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* in 1997. This course focuses on the post-1990 writings and films from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal – countries that are rapidly making their mark in the global arena in the contemporary era.

The world is increasingly becoming aware of the significance of South Asia through its literature, culture and cinema which has gained popular readership and viewership all over the world and is now studied, analyzed and researched at high-profile universities and academic forums and is recognized and acknowledged through international prizes and awards. The post-1990 literature of these countries portrays their rich cultural and historical legacy as well as their turmoil and self-doubt as they struggle to maintain their identities in the rapidly advancing globalized world.

As the economies of these countries become liberalized, writers and filmmakers develop new ways to imagine political futures. Important offshoots of the mainstream literature are the diaspora writings, Bhasha writing, regional writing in translation, Dalit writing, queer fiction, and pulp fiction that reveal the dominant undercurrents of thoughts, ideas and ideology that shape the counterculture.

The religious, socio-economic, cultural and political conditions of a nation or region can best be gleaned from its literature as well as films. The selected post-1990s literature and its closely associated art form – films, from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal – will showcase the narratives, lives and worldviews of the people of South Asia in the context of the critical issues of caste and identity politics, gender, globalization and social change. Significant categories like contemporary regional cinema, parallel cinema, multiplex cinema, new media and digital platforms will be taken up for discussion and analysis.

The course will also examine new writers and directors and the variant themes and forms that their works engage with, and will thus attempt to present an overview of the broad category of contemporary South Asian literature and cinema.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To enable participants to develop an understanding of South Asian culture, history, and futurity as reflected in its literature and films.
- To facilitate the participants to acquire a historical overview of the major writings and cinema of South Asia of the post-1990s to the present and to examine the impact of globalization and social change on their worldviews.
- To provide exposure to the key texts and films of this period that intersect with the broader fields of politics, socio-economic environment, culture, and religion.
- To enhance the capability of the participants to assess the significance of South Asian literature and films and its contribution to World literature and cinematic arts.

# INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

## WHO CAN ATTEND?

Students of all degree levels, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, teachers and faculty in Humanities and Social Sciences, practitioners of photography and cinematography, art and visual studies, critics in private and government organizations. The course is self-contained so there are no strong prerequisites for attending it.

## COURSE DURATION

- Duration: May 30th - June 4th, 2022
- Total Contact Hours: 20 hours; 3-4 hour lectures per day.
- Time: 8 am - 11 am EST i.e. 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm IST
- Mode of delivery: Online

## COURSE FEE STRUCTURE

The participation fees for taking the course is as follows:

- Participants from abroad:
  - Students: US\$30
  - Academicians and Industry Personnel: US\$60
- Participants from India:
  - Industry/Research Organizations: Rs 3540 /-
  - Faculty from Indian Academic Institutions: Rs.1770 /-
  - Research Scholars and Students: Rs.944 /-
- The above fee includes all instructional materials, tutorials, and assignments. (Exclusive of GIAN Portal Registration fee)

## HOW TO REGISTER

- One Time Registration at GIAN portal of IIT Kharagpur is mandatory for every participant. Follow the instructions at <https://gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index> to register and pay Rs. 500 fee.
- Next, register for the course by paying the Registration Fee through National Electronic Transfer (NEFT) as per the following details:
  - Name of Account Holder: “Registrar (Sponsored Research), MNIT Jaipur”
  - Account No.: 676801700388
  - Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.
  - Branch: MREC, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur
  - IFSC Code: ICIC0006768
  - MICR No. 302229031
- After paying the Registration Fee, it is mandatory for the participants to register at the registration link <https://forms.gle/Y3HKcKTccL7iUVZ49>.
- The seats for this course are limited and will be available on a First Come First Served basis.
- The shortlisted participants will be informed by email by 25th May, 2022.
- This is an online course and all participants will be provided a certificate.
- It is compulsory for participants to be present in all the sessions and submit all the assignments in order to receive the certificate.

**LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 15TH MAY 2022**



## PROF. ULKA ANJARIA

Ulka Anjaria is professor of English and director of the Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University, USA. She researches and teaches on Indian and South Asian literature and film, global literature and postcolonial theory.

She is the author of *Realism in the Twentieth-Century Indian Novel: Colonial Difference and Literary Form* (Cambridge UP, 2012), *Reading India Now: Contemporary Formations in Literature and Popular Culture* (Temple UP and Orient Blackswan, 2019), and *Understanding Bollywood: Text, Genre, Society* (Routledge, 2021) and the editor of *A History of the Indian Novel in English* (Cambridge UP, 2015) and the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Modern Indian Literatures*.

She has published academic articles in *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, *Wasafiri* and the *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture* and in several edited volumes, such as *The Routledge Companion to Pakistani Anglophone Writing* (2018), *Close Up: Great Cinematic Performances, Vol II* (2018), *Behind the Scenes: Contemporary Bollywood Directors and Their Cinema* (2017), *Enterprise Culture in Neoliberal India: Studies of Youth, Class, Work and Media* (2013), and *The Slumdog Phenomenon: A Critical Anthology* (2013).

She has also published on South Asian literature for more general audiences in *Scroll*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Public Books*, *American Book Review* and *The Boston Review*.

Professor Ulka Anjaria has been invited to speak at the University of Houston, the University of Alberta, Delhi University, the University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University, the University of London, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, the University of Illinois, Cornell University, and Tufts University, and has presented at many academic conferences in the United States, Europe, and South Asia.

She is the recipient of an ACLS/Charles A. Ryskamp Fellowship, a Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Fellowship for Higher Education of Present and Prospective Teachers, and a Mandel Faculty Grant in the Humanities.

The detailed CV can be found at:

<https://www.brandeis.edu/facultyguide/person.htmlemplid=fc56544b69efaabfcd4670aa98b610b64812053f>



## DR. PREETI BHATT

Dr. Preeti Bhatt, Associate Professor in English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur, has held academic positions in institutes of higher learning for the last twenty-five years. Her areas of interest are Contemporary British Fiction, Indian Writing in English, Literary Theory and English Language Teaching. Dr. Bhatt has co-edited the book *Contemporary British Fiction: History and the Present* and is the author of *Experiments in Narrative Technique in the Novels of Muriel Spark*.

She has organized International Conferences and a National Conference and various national level workshops on LATEX and Technical Writing, English Language Teaching and Professional Communication at MNIT Jaipur. She has also been invited at reputed institutes for delivering expert lectures on Communication Skills and Professional Communication.

Dr. Bhatt has worked on research projects on English Language Teaching and Indian Writing in English. She was the Co-Principal Investigator in a TEQIP funded project titled “English Skills for Employability: Empowering Engineering Students of Rajasthan in a Globalized World” (2020-21). Dr. Bhatt has also presented papers at international conferences in countries like the U.K., Germany, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and Dubai, and her papers have been published in journals and books in India and abroad. She has been actively supervising students for their Doctoral research in various aspects of English Literature at MNIT Jaipur.



## DR. NIDHI BANSAL

Dr. Nidhi Bansal is an Assistant Professor in Sociology serving at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur. She is an awardee of the Post Doctoral Fellowship of ICSSR, New Delhi and of Junior and Senior Research Fellowship of UGC, New Delhi for her doctoral research.

She is also a recipient of the University Gold Medal in her post graduation from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Her research interests lie in the area of digital technologies and development, gender analysis, and science, technology and society.

The courses presently being taught by her include ‘Sociology of Science and Technology’ and ‘Gender and Society’. She has worked on a project on ‘Engineering Education in India’ under the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme III, funded by The Ministry of Education, Government of India. She is Faculty Coordinator for Regional Coordinating Institute, MNIT Jaipur at Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Education, Government of India. She has presented research papers in several international and national conferences.



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