

Engl. 4397: Selected Topics in Film, Literature, and Culture

South Asian Literature and Film

This course will engage a variety of materials from twentieth and twenty first century South Asian literature and film. By examining a selection of novelistic and filmic texts (and one graphic novel), we will explore ways of imagining unique national identities within South Asia, the place of women and queer sexualities within them, and new “humanisms” and “cosmopolitanisms” that resist or mark their distance from the west even while remaining in a dialectical relation to it. We will read texts in translation (by Tagore and Devi) and original works in English (by Rushdie, Jean Arasayangam, Michael Ondaatje, and Shyam Selvadurai), and watch select films (by Satyajit Ray and Om Prakash Mehra). We will, in the final part of the course, engage with the question of South Asian “globalization” via a discussion of Mehra’s film *Delhi 6*. All literary and filmic texts will be read alongside critical material that provide a historical or analytic frame to the texts.