In this course we will look at the financial crisis of 2008 as an event in literary fiction by writers from the US, the UK, and Asia. Our goal will be to understand the challenges that representing the 2008 crisis posed to novelists; to try to understand the social and ideological location of literature in relation to that crisis; and more generally to try to understand neoliberalism as a theory and a politics.


Course requirements: Attendance at lectures; participation in discussion sections and online discussions; two 5-7 page essays. There will also be a screening of the film *The Big Short*.

**Debating and Defining Neoliberalism:**
January 6: Readings: David Harvey, *A Brief History of Liberalism* (1-86)
January 8: Deirdre Nansen McCloskey, “Neoliberalism Interview” (Canvas); Thomas Biebricher, *The Political Theory of Neoliberalism*, Chapter 1 (Canvas Reserve); Walter Benn Michaels, “Neoliberal Aesthetics: Fried, Rancière, and the Form of the Photograph” (Canvas)

**Inequality Unleashed:**
January 13: Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger*

January 20: Adiga, *The White Tiger*
January 22: Adiga, *The White Tiger*

**The Crash**
January 26: Screening of *The Big Short* (Time & Location TBA)
January 27: *The Big Short*
The Collective Subject, or Place and People
February 3: Lanchester, *Capital*
February 5: Lanchester, *Capital*

February 10: Lanchester, *Capital*
February 12: Lanchester, *Capital*

Art and the Second Person
February 17: Ben Lerner, *10:04*
February 19: Ben Lerner, *10:04*

February 24: Lerner, *10:04*
February 26: Lerner, *10:04*

The Attenuated Novel
March 2: Rachel Cusk, *Kudos*
March 4: Rachel Cusk, *Kudos*

March 9: Cusk, *Kudos*
March 11: Cusk, *Kudos*