



Nagaland University
(A Central University established by the act of Parliament, 35/1989)
Department of English
Kohima Campus, Kohima-797004

NU/ Eng/Seminar/2018/

17th October 2018

Brief Concept Note
International Conference on
Contemporary American Literature, History, Culture and Politics
21-23 February, 2019

American Literature holds one of the World's most dynamic literary traditions. The literature written/ produced in the United States and its preceding colonies before the foundation of the United States in the British colonies was heavily influenced by English Literature. The American literary tradition is thus a part of the broader tradition of English literature. The 20th century literary environment in American literature witnessed diverse themes, techniques and trends of writing. American Literature from early 1970s with their postmodernist features can undisputably be called Contemporary American Literature.

Thomas Pynchon is considered the foremost postmodernist contemporary American writer. The other prominent contemporary American writers who have been awarded Nobel prizes for Literature are Saul Bellow, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Joseph Brodsky, Toni Morrison and Bob Dylan. There are so many other prominent writers who have been honoured with Pulitzer prize, National Book Award, American Book Awards, United States Poet Laureate, O' Henry Award, etc. Among the contemporary American writers, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Cormac Mc Carthy, Don De Lillo, Philip Roth, David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Franzen, Michael Chabon, Denis Johnson, Louise Erdrich, Rita Dove, North Dakota and many minority, diaspora and multi-ethnic writers have contributed to variegated literary genres. Minority literature, written by and about ethnic minorities beyond African American and Jewish Americans is one of the major aspects of contemporary American Literature. Several varieties of minority literature, Native American literature, Asian American Literature, Arab American literature, Korean American Literature, etc and migrant writings in their multiple dimensions have contributed to the growth and diversity of contemporary American Literature. All aspects of Contemporary American Literature and corresponding critical trends will be deliberated upon in the proposed International Seminar.

Culture, History and Politics are the other trends of Contemporary American Literature besides several other contemporary issues. The USA is at the height of several developmental programmes, its foreign policies in politics have become crucial for world peace and is seen as the foremost amongst major powers of the world. Hence it is noteworthy and relevant to explore how the world looks at the USA today.

The abstracts of papers in about 250 words are invited on the following broad sub-themes latest by 15th February 2019: (The abstracts should be e-mailed to nndas69@yahoo.co.in,/ rosedzuvichu@yahoo.com, / nndas@nagalanduniversity.ac.in)

- (i) Contemporary American Culture: Trends and Concept
- (ii) Contemporary American History
- (iii) Contemporary American Politics vs World Politics
- (iv) Trends in Contemporary American Fiction
- (v) Trends in Contemporary American Poetry
- (vi) Trends in Contemporary American Drama
- (vii) Contemporary Native American Literature
- (viii) Contemporary Black Literature
- (ix) Trends in other Contemporary American Literary Writings, Literary Criticism, etc.
- (x) Contemporary American Literature in Comparative Perspectives
- (xi) Migrant Literature, Diaspora and Recent Challenges in Writing

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