**UGC National Seminar**

**On**

**African American Women Writers with a Special Tribute to Maya Angelou**

**Organized by:**

**Department of English,**

**Gujarat University**

**Date: January 22-23, 2015**

**Call for Papers**

African American Women Writers have attained the kind of status and popularity that can rarely be questioned. These women have been lucky to be born, mostly, in a time that sustains and encourages marginalized people all over the world to claim their position in the center stage. The decentering of the 20th century has given these women a chance to share their dreams, struggles, and aspirations with people ready to uphold their struggle as legitimate, just and necessary. African American literature started with the slave narratives and moved on to encompass the themes that could easily have a universal appeal. Writers like Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Ann Petry, Rita Dove and others have changed the way American Literature is expressed and viewed around the world. The Black women have been written about in the form of slaves and “all loving” mammies, but now these very mammies are writing back with a vengeance. Black women in America have created their own theories as the prevalent theories (both black and white), seemed inadequate to address the specific needs of these women. Patricia Hill Collins and others called their theory Black Feminism out of which arose Alice Walker and Chikwenye Ogunyemi’s Womanism. Black Feminism was against racism and sexism both. It was a Universal theory that addressed the issues of marginals the world over, as it was an all-inclusive theory. The other Postcolonial theories can also be applied to the Black women’s literature as most of them are based on the model of decentering and Heteroglossia.

This Seminar is organized to remember and pay our tribute to the legendary writer, poet, actress, producer, and singer Maya Angelou who passed away this year leaving us with a profound sense of loss. Maya’s life and her works have inspired a whole generation of writers both men and women. Maya’s series of autobiography is such an empowering experience that even in the darkest moment of our lives we can find inspiration from her words and deeds. President Barack Obama presented her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country’s highest civilian honor in2010. We the organizers of this Seminar wish to pay our tribute to this woman who taught us not only how and what to write but also how to live.

This Seminar proposes to examine the Black women’s writing from the point of view of their own theories and all in the light of the other critical theories. Interested participants are requested to send their abstract in 300-400 words on or before Dec.10, 2014 as an email attachment to **mayaangelou2015@gmail.com**. The sub-themes of this Seminar are:

1. Major themes of African American Women’s Literature.
2. African American Women’s Literature in the light of Subaltern theory.
3. Bakhtin and African American Women’s Literature.
4. Derrida and African American Women’s Literature.
5. Narrative strategies in African American Women’s Literature.
6. Influences on African American Women’s Literature.
7. Future of African American Women’s Literature.
8. Any other topic relevant to the major theme of the Seminar.

**Registration Details:**

**Registration Fees:**

1) Local Participants: Rs. 1000/-

1. Outside Participants (With Accommodation): Rs. 1500/- (Can pay on the spot).

3) Research Scholars: Rs. 750/-

**Important Dates**:

1. Last Date for the submission of the abstract: **December 10, 2014**.
2. Intimation of the acceptance of the abstract: **December 20, 2014**.
3. Last date for Registration: **December 30, 2014**.

**Key Attraction**:

Keynote by: Professor Amritjit Singh, Langston Hughes Professor of English, Ohio University.

**Contact**:

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| **Dr. Darshana Trivedi**  Head, Department of English  Gujarat University.  Phone: 079-26305025 | **Dr. Nutan Kotak**  Seminar Director  Department of English,  Uni. School of Languages  Gujarat University  Ahmedabad- 380009  Mobile: 09376114262  Email: [mayaangelou2015@gmail.com](mailto:mayaangelou2015@gmail.com) |

**UGC National Seminar 2015**

**Dept. of English**

**Gujarat University**

**Registration Form**

1. Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Paper Presentation: YES/NO

7. Title of the Paper:

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1. Registration Fees: Rs.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Accommodation Needed: YES/NO.

Signature: