**ST.JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE**

**IV SEMESTER EXAMINATION, APRIL 2017**

**MA-ENGLISH**

**EN DE 0314 - American Literature II**

**Time: 2 ½ hours** **Max Marks: 70**

**SECTION-A**

**I. Answer any one of the following: (15 x 1 = 15)**

1) What promise did ‘the American Dream’ hold out to the average citizen/immigrant and how did reality relate to the ideal in this regard? Discuss with reference to any two or three texts you studied.

2) How did the course lead you to perceive the nature of cultural/ethnic plurality in America? What threats to pluralism do you foresee in the near future?

**SECTION-B**

**II. Answer any THREE of the following: (15 x 3 = 45)**

3) Discuss the contrasting ways in which Nabokov and Bellow present the American socio-cultural ethos in their respective novels, *Lolita* and *Herzog*.

4) What comparisons and contrasts do you perceive in the way Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* and James Baldwin’s *Sonny’s Blues* articulate the internal and external challenges faced by the African American community?

5) “If Faulkner’s‘A Rose for Emily’ presents the folly of holding on to a decadent past Frost’s ‘Provide, Provide’ points to the ephemerality attendant upon the pursuit of celebrity.” Comment on the relevance of this statement to the way the two texts offer their own take on the American Dream.

6) How do ‘The Magic Barrel’ by Bernard Malamud and ‘The Conversion of the Jews’ by Philip Roth each present a unique treatment of some key Jewish American concerns/themes?

7) How does Bharati Mukherjee’s story, ‘A Father,’ explore the contrarieties of the Indian diaspora’s experience of American life?

**SECTION-C**

**III Write short essays on any ONE of the following: (10x1=10)**

8) Heller’s *Catch-22*as an indictment of war capitalism.

9) Hispanic American concerns in Cisneros and/or Rodriguez

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***