

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2014 /2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

2^{ND} YEAR 1^{ST} SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: LIT 300

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED LITERARY THEORY AND APPLICATION

DATE: 22nd January 2015 **TIME 11.00-1.30.p.m.**

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer FOUR Questions. Question ONE is compulsory

KIBUCO observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY)

What do you understand by the following theories?

(18 marks)

- i) Feminism
- ii) Queer Literary Theory
- iii) Freudian Literary Theory
- b) With the aid of textual examples, show how deconstructionists go about their critical projects? (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO

By the use of feminism, postmodernism and structuralism, make a critical reading of Buchi Emecheta's *The Joys of motherhood* (1979) or Mariama Ba's *So Long a Letter* (1981).

(15 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Evaluate the major principles by any **ONE** of the following theories: (8 marks)
 - i) Existentialism
 - ii) Marxism
 - iii) New Criticism
- b) "Because of the world's absurdity, at any point in time, anything can happen to anyone, and a tragic event could plummet someone into direct confrontation with the Absurd".
 With this statement in mind, make an existentialist analysis of "The Metamorphosis" (1915) by Frank Kafka.
 (7 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) "Literary theory is the backbone of interpretive criticism and creative writing". What do you understand by this statement? (7 marks)
- b) Attempt a Formalist analysis of the following poem:

(8 marks)

I MET A THIEF

By Austin Bukenya

On the beach, on the coast,

Under the idle,

Before the growling, foaming, waves,

I met a thief who guessed I had

An innocent heard for her to steal.

She took my hand and led me under The intimate cashew boughs which shaded The downy grass and peeping weeds.

She jumped and plucked the nuts for me to suck;

She sang and laughed and pressed close.

I guessed; her hair was like the wool of a mountain

sheep,

Her eyes, a pair of brown-black beans floating in milk.

Her legs, arms and neck;

And like wine-gourds her pillowy breasts;

Her throat uttered fresh banana juice:

Matching her face-smooth and banana-ripe.

I touched-but long before I even tasted,

My heart had flowed from me into her breast;

And then she went- High and South-

And left my carcase roasting in the fire she'd lit

QUESTION FIVE

- a) What are the main concerns of the branches of feminist criticism mentioned below? (10 marks)
 - i. Liberal feminist criticism
 - ii. Marxist feminist criticism
 - iii. Gynocriticism
 - iv. Radical feminist criticism
 - v. Psychoanalytic feminist criticism
- b) Discuss some of the assumptions shared by different branches of feminist literary theorists. (5 marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Discuss the point of interface and departures between classical and post-modern literary theories. (6 marks)
- b) According to Wimsatt and Beardshey, the words on the page were all that mattered; importation of meaning from outside the text was quite irrelevant. Paying close attention to Wahome Mutahi's *Three Days on the Cross* (1991), discuss the relevance of the statement. (9 marks)-