



KIBABII UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2014 /2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

1ST YEAR 1ST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: LIT 810

COURSE TITLE: THEORIES AND PRACTICE OF LITERARY CRITICISM

DATE: DECEMBER, 2014

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- Answer question one compulsory and any other two questions

Question One (Compulsory)

1. Why is theory important to our understanding of literary works?
2. While Plato posts that literature “imitates society,” Aristotle argues that in fact “literature is a representation of reality.” Is there a difference?
3. Using any East African Woman writer, explain the main tenets of “feminism.”
4. “The universality in the interpretation of literary works seems to be undermined by the reader response theory.” Do you agree?
5. “Contemporary literary theory can be said to find its roots in classical literary theory.”
Comment.
6. Discuss the theoretical standpoints of any one of the following writers/critics: Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Ali Mazrui, Taban lo Liyong and Oket p’ Bitck.
7. How do you justify the attempt to interpret as literature certain non-linguistic features such as the landscape, motion or non-motion pictures, or even garden statues?