



**KIBABII UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURE, JOURNALISM & MASS**  
**COMMUNICATION**

**Examination of Masters of Arts in Comparative Literature**  
**2014/2015 Academic Year 1<sup>st</sup> Semester**

**Course Code: LIT 816**

**Course Title: Tragedy in Drama**

**Answer question one and any other two questions**

***Avoid the repetition of texts in more than one question***

***Question one***

- a) With appropriate examples, discuss how the idea of tragedy and its criticism has historically evolved in Europe and America from Medieval period up to the modern era. (14 marks)
- b) Identify and discuss the defining aspects of classical tragedy. Support your arguments with details from *King Oedipus* by Sophocles (8 marks)
- c) Explain the main features of African ritual tragic drama. (8 marks)

***Question two***

Referring to any two plays by African playwrights studied in the course, discuss how far the following variations of tragedy are evident in them: (i) Social and personal tragedy, (ii) From Hero to Victim, and (iii) Tragic Sacrifice (15 marks)

***Question three***

Explain how *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett exemplify (i) Tragicomedy, (ii) Tragic Resignation, and (iii) Tragic Despair (15 marks)

***Question four***

Critique the strategies that Shakespeare employs in *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* to dramatise the tragic situation and tragic action in the play. (15 marks)

***Question five***

How far can you argue that Brecht demonstrates “a conscious rejection of tragedy” in his drama? Use one of his plays studied in the course to critically discuss this assertion. (15 marks)