



JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE
1ST YEAR 1ST SEMESTER 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR
MAIN CAMPUS

COURSE CODE: ALI 802

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY THEORY AND THE PRACTICE OF CRITICISM

DATE:

TIME:

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Instructions:

1. Attempt THREE questions in all
2. Avoid unnecessary duplication of material in answer to more than one question
3. Candidates are allowed 15 minutes to read through the questions before commencement of the examination

Q1.

"While Formalism and New Criticism are often accused of social and political irresponsibility, the literary thinkers involved usually assumed that their theories would ultimately have positive implications." Do you agree? Justify your view.

(20 Marks)

Q2.

"Though theory limits our power to perceive, we are never without one or more; we can never do with one or without one." With the hindsight of the practice of literary criticism, critically respond to this assertion.

(20 Marks)

Q3.

With close reference to literary texts encountered in this course, critically explore the deconstructionist contention that all reading is a misreading.

(20 Marks)

Q4. "This world... this Africa knows only one law. You eat somebody or you are eaten. You sit on somebody or somebody sits on you" Do you agree? Support your view with ample illustrations from Ali Mazrui's play, *Shadows of the Moon* and/ or Chimamanda's *Purple Hibiscus*.

(20 Marks)

Q5.

With close reference to No Violet Bulawayo's *We Need New Names* and/or Olekulet's *The Elephant Dance*, discuss the kinship between the author, the text, and the world.

(20 Marks)