



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION  
ARTS  
3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER 2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR  
MAIN CAMPUS**

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**COURSE CODE: ALI 309**

**COURSE TITLE: MODERN THEORIES OF LITERATURE**

**EXAM VENUE: STREAM: (BED ARTS)**

**DATE: 1/12/20**

**EXAM SESSION: 9-12 NOON**

**TIME: 3.00 HOURS**

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**Instructions:**

**1. Answer Question ONE (compulsory) and ANY other TWO questions.**

- 1. Candidates are advised to write on the text editor provided, or to write on a foolscap, scan and upload alongside the question.**
- 2. Candidates must ensure that they submit their work by clicking 'FINISH AND SUBMIT ATTEMPT' button at the end.**

1. Discuss any **four** major tenets of formalism and attempt the theory's application in the analysis of the following poem: (30 Marks)

**Ode to My Dark Skin**

**By Fatima Iman**

The say the blacker the berry,  
The sweeter the juice,  
That may sound cliché but damn  
it's the truth,  
There were times that I hated you  
Debated you,  
Ashamed of you,  
I look back now with thinking  
man, how I was fooled,  
Found this dark skin a curse,  
Mainstream media is the worse,  
Programmed fair skin as a  
commodity that I need like a  
brand new purse,  
To prance around town like a  
clown,  
I found no reason to be proud,  
I walk around with sagged  
shoulders and my head was kept  
down,  
Abused you using creams,  
Your true beauty I couldn't see,  
Tear come to eyes,  
Could you ever forgive me,  
You were never the one to blame,  
I was the one who brought you  
shame,  
Allowed the words of color-struck  
niggas to hit me and turn you  
away,  
You are the symbol of black  
strength,  
Queen Nefertiti back in the flesh,  
You're blackness wraps tightly  
around me just like a freakum  
dress,  
Puts me on top of my game,  
Turn my back on all the lames,

look who's now ego trippin,  
And your the only one to blame,  
I'm Covered in melted Godiva,  
Sweet chocolate I'm on fire,  
No I'm not cocky I'm confident,  
I laugh when they say you  
shouldn't be desired,  
How dare they identify you with  
ugliness,  
I guess stupidity is contagious,  
What your made with, can't be  
debated your closer to gold and  
that can't be tainted,  
Never ever leave me alone,  
Always bless me with your kisses,  
Cuz the blacker the sweeter the  
juice,  
And you are what I was blessed  
with.

2. "The artist in the traditional African milieu spoke for, and on behalf of his community" (Chinweizu et al. 1985). Using this statement as your springboard, carry out a Marxist critique of Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Micere Mugo's play *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* providing relevant textual illustrations. (20 marks)
3. With close reference to Chimamanda Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, discuss the **two** strands of feminism evident in the novel. (20 Marks)
4. "To peel away like an onion the layers of constructed meanings" (Appignanesi & Garrat, 1995). Discuss the extent to which this assertion captures the spirit of the theory of deconstruction. (20 Marks)
5. Carry out a literary critique of any **two** short stories of your choice from Chimamanda Adichie's *The Thing Around Your Neck* using postcolonial theory. (20 marks)