

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2012

**COURSE NAME: THEMATIC STUDIES IN THE AFRICAN NOVEL AND
BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

COURSE CODE: AL 414 / IDE AL 414

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH QUESTION SHOULD BE COMMENCED ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**
- 3. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.**
- 4. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION HALL.**
- 5. IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THIS PAPER, CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH, THE QUALITY OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESENTATION OF ANSWERS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION – A
PROSE FICTION: NOVEL

QUESTION ONE

Ama Ata Aidoo: Changes: A Love Story

“Aidoo polarizes her female characters into the “suffering good wife” and that of the “cynical modern woman” which Stratton terms as the “convention of the paired women”. Give a reasoned argument as to whether this comment can be regarded as true or false.

QUESTION TWO

Nawal el Sadaawi: Woman at Point Zero

“I was like a woman walking through an enchanted world to which she does not belong. She is free to do what she wants, and free not to do it. She experiences the rare pleasure of having no ties with anyone, of having broken with everything ... of enjoying freedom from any subjection to a man, to marriage, or to love”

With reference to the above quotation, discuss how Firdaus connects estrangement and freedom.

SECTION – B
PROSE FICTION: SHORT STORY

QUESTION THREE

Veronique Tadjo: “A Sunny Afternoon”

How does Tadjo employ the contrasting techniques of dream and reality to illustrate how a woman’s social roles clash with her personal roles in the short story, “A Sunny Afternoon”?

QUESTION FOUR

Chimamanda N. Adichie: “Transition to Glory”

“A father is the first man a young girl knows thus setting the stage for all the other men in her life. When this relationship never occurs, young women have trouble navigating their ‘man map’ and often end up on roads they have not discovered.”

Discuss Adichie’s short story, “Transition to Glory” in relation to the above statements that relate to the “father factor.”

SECTION – C

PROSE NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FIVE

Bessie Head: A Woman Alone

“... but nothing can take away the fact that I have never had a country; not in South Africa or in Botswana where I now live as a stateless person.”

Discuss the sense of alienation that pervades Head’s life and show in what way it affects her writing.

QUESTION SIX

Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water

How does Emecheta transfer the burden of her own guilt for a failed marriage, in her autobiographical work, to her fictitious heroine, Akuna in The Bride Price?