

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2013

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

COURSE CODE: AL 313 / IDE AL 313

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, ONE FROM SECTION - A AND TWO (INCLUDING THE COMPULSORY QUESTION) FROM SECTION - B. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 20 MARKS.**
- 2. EACH ANSWER SHOULD COMMENCE 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

Chinua Achebe: No Longer at Ease

“Going from the Lagos Mainland to Ikoyi on a Saturday night was like going from a bazaar to a funeral It always reminded him of twin kernel separated by a thin wall in a palm-nut shell. Sometimes one kernel was shiny-black and alive, the other powdery-white and dead.”

What does the twin kernel represent and how is it related to Obi’s divided life?

QUESTION TWO

Chenjerai Hove: Bones

“Hove tells the story of the independence struggle from the side of the peasants who have been silenced and made anonymous by a system that has continuously refused to acknowledge their humanity.” Discuss this statement with relevant textual illustrations.

QUESTION THREE

MARIAMA BA: So Long a Letter

“The two major female characters in the novel make personal, significant choices when confronted with some inherent gender-based inequalities in their culture, especially the marriage institution.” Compare and contrast the choices made by Aissatou and Ramatoulaye in the institution of marriage.

SECTION – B
BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

QUESTION FOUR (COMPULSORY)

- a. Discuss the uses of autobiography.
- b. List the classifications of the genre according to the major themes in the modern period.

QUESTION FIVE

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

“In South Africa, a man who tried to fulfil his duty to his people was inevitably ripped from his family and his home and was forced to live a life apart, a twilight existence of secrecy and rebellion.” Discuss Mandela’s roles as a son, husband and father in relation to the above statement.

QUESTION SIX

Hilda Kuper: Sobhuza II: Ngwenyama and the king of Swaziland

What is an ethnographic autobiography/biography? Can you consider King Sobhuza II’s biography as an Ethnographic biography? Give reasons for your answer.