

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION  
DECEMBER 2016

**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 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 EXPRESSIONS 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**

“The polygamous marriage between Ali and Esi failed mainly because they naively entered into a traditional structure without subscribing to its codes and conventions and they simply used a social structure designed around family dynamics to legalise an extra-marital love affair.” How far do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Give textual illustrations to your arguments.

**QUESTION TWO****Buchi Emecheta: The Slave Girl**

“The Protagonist, Ojebeta’s journey through life is a journey from autonomy and self-assertion into dependency and abnegation, from the freedom and fullness of girlhood into the slavery and self-denial of womanhood.” Discuss Emecheta’s novel as a female bildungsroman.

**SECTION – B****SHORT STORY****QUESTION THREE****Nadine Gordimer: “Is there somewhere else where we can meet?”**

“For a moment, it was Fear itself that had her by the arms, the legs, the throat; not fear of the man, of any single menace he might present, but Fear, absolute, abstract.”

How does Gordimer engage in the fearful perception of the white woman when she encounters a black man in a deserted place?

**QUESTION FOUR****Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: "Transition to Glory"**

"Cross-generational relationships are the result of the absent father figures in the lives of young women." Discuss this statement using Oziomo's relationship to Agha in Adichie's short story, as your focus.

**SECTION – C****PROSE NON-FICTION: AUTOBIOGRAPHY****QUESTION FIVE****Buchi Emecheta: Head Above Water**

"... if one belongs to a group, one should try and abide by its laws. If one could not abide by the group's law, then one was an outsider, a radical, someone different who had find a way of living and being happy outside the group. Akunna was too young to do all that. She had to die."

Who is Akunna and how is she related to Emecheta's life? In an essay, explore the connection between Emecheta and Akunna, taking your cue from the above quotation.

**QUESTION SIX****Bessie Head: A Woman Alone**

Discuss Head's sense of alienation and homelessness using relevant illustrations from her autobiographical notes.