

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION, 2007/2008

SUPPLEMENTARY

TITLE OF PAPER: MODERN CRITICAL THEORIES

COURSE CODE: ENG. 304 / IDE-ENG. 304

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 30 MARKS. THE TOTAL MARKS FOR THE EXAMINATION = 60%.

- 2. DO NOT REPEAT MATERIAL OR WRITE ABOUT THE SAME TEXT AT LENGTH MORE THAN ONCE.**
- 3. CANDIDATES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ANY READING MATERIAL INTO THE EXAMINATION ROOM.**
- 4. CORRECT USAGE OF ENGLISH WILL BE REWARDED AND GRAMMATICAL AND SPELLING MISTAKES PENALIZED.**

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

1. Structuralism in Literature is open to new ways of reading or thinking, but it only adds these to what exists already. Thus, it builds upon existing foundations. Apply this line of reasoning to an African text of your choice.
2. Marxism employed Deconstruction to try to destroy Capitalism. Show how an African writer reflects this trend in one or two texts of your choice.
3. How is the concept of Existentialism revealed in a literary text that you have studied?
4. Post Colonialism, in a way, is a continuation of Colonialism through surrogates. Explore one or two African texts from this perspective and sustain or reject the claim.
5. Modernism emerged as an orientation in the arts to voice frustration and condemnation of the wanton destruction resulting from the two World Wars. Conversely, Postmodernism attempts to restore hope while still condemning warfare. How are these two concepts reflected in two literary texts that you are familiar with?
6. Examine the influence of Black Feminist Criticism on African Literature with close reference to at least two texts.

SECTION A

1. Identify the four basic and the supporting elements of drama and use examples from a text you studied in this course, to show how the author has used these elements to achieve his or her thematic intentions. (30)
2. Compare and contrast the Arena theatre and the Greek amphitheatre. (30)
3. Discuss the guiding principles in the creation of comedy and tragedy. (30)

SECTION B

The Lion and the Jewel – Soyinka

4. Soyinka regards Baroka as a shrewd old man. Discuss how this shrewdness is demonstrated through juxtaposition, and comment on the social criticism Soyinka highlights through Baroka's behaviour. (30)

Either:

The Coat – Fugard

5. "The situation on which the five characters/actors seek to base their play opens many possibilities." Which ones have more potential according to the cast? (30)

Or:

Nongogo – Fugard

6. Discuss how Fugard has used character presentation to portray the theme of disillusionment and broken dreams in this play. (30)

Othello – Shakespeare and The Gods are Not to Blame- Rotimi

7. Compare and contrast the protagonists in the above plays and discuss how the two fit the definition of the Greek Classical and the Elizabethan tragic hero. [30]

Death of a Salesman – Miller

8. The act of committing suicide is usually associated with despair. Discuss whether or not Willy's decision to take his own life fits in with this assumption. (30)