

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE: ENG 204

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any two questions. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 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 use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the contrary will be penalised.

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

Question 1

“The earliest enduringly important article/essay of theoretical criticism was Aristotle’s *Poetics* (fourth century B.C).” Discuss. [30]

Question 2

With close reference to a text you have studied illustrate how it represents **THREE** of the major orientations of literary criticism. [30]

Question 3

Critically discuss and illustrate the relevance of Russian Formalism theory to Literary Criticism. [30]

Question 4

Compare and contrast Marxist ideological superstructure theory with post-colonial theory showing how it is relevant to African Literature. [30]

Question 5

With close reference to your local literature, show the relevance of the following concepts

- Western feminism
- African feminism
- Womanism

[30]

QUESTION 1

Who are the scholars behind the concepts of Catharsis and the Sublime. With clear illustrations from any text studied in the department, compare and contrast the Classical concepts of Catharsis and the Sublime. [30]

QUESTION 2

Who do we trace the concept of literariness in literature to? What does the concept entails? Using the following poem to demonstrate your understanding of the concept, explain what the concept means / entails. [30]

I

Happy ye leaves when as those lily hands,
Which hold my life in their dead-doing might,
Shall handle you and hold in love's soft bands,
Like captives trembling at the victor's sight.
And happy lines, on which with starry light,
Those laming eyes will deign sometimes to look
And read the sorrows of my dying sprite,
Written with tears in heart's close-bleeding book.
And happy rhymes bath'd in the sacred brook,
Of Helicon whence she derived is,
When ye behold that Angel's blessed look,
My soul's long-lacked food, my heaven's bliss.
Leaves, lines, and rhymes, seek her to please alone,
Whom if ye please, I care for other none.

QUESTION 3

Critically, but briefly discuss any three of the following concepts: "defamiliarization," "social reality," "Intentional fallacy," "Affective fallacy," "Freudian slip," "On the Sublime." Who initiated these ideas? [30]

QUESTION 4

Use clear illustrations to distinguish between Literary criticism, Literary theory and Applied criticism. [30]

QUESTION 5

Compare and contrast the concepts of Russian Formalism and Anglo-American New Criticism. [30]