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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2011

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : ENG 204 / IDE-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 importance of literature to literary study is the reason we are giving attention to thorough familiarity with literature and the different parts which make up literature.” Discuss the theory of genres of literature in relation to the place of literature in culture and language. **30 Marks**

QUESTION 2

Choose **one** of the theories studied in this course and apply it to the following poem to demonstrate that general literary theory is relevant to the study of African literature.

30 Marks

J.P. Clark - Abiku

Coming and going these several seasons,
 Do stay out to the baobab tree,
 Follow where you please your kindred spirits
 If in doors is not enough for you.
 5 True, it leaks through the thatch
 When floods brim the banks,
 And the bats and the owls
 Often tear it at night through the leaves,
 And at harmattan, the bamboo walls
 10 Are ready tinder for the fire
 That dries the fresh fish up on the rack.
 Still, it's been the healthy stock
 To several fingers, to many more will be
 Who reach to the sun
 15 No longer then bestride the threshold
 But step in stay
 For good. We know the scars
 Serrating down your back and front
 Like beak of the sword-fish,
 20 And both your ears notched
 As a bonds man to this house,
 Are all relics of your first comings.
 Then step in, step in and stay
 For her body is tired,
 25 Tired, her milk going sour
 Where many more mouths gladden the heart.

[30]

QUESTION 3

- a) In which major orientation of literary study would you place Modern Psychoanalytic Criticism and why? **10 Marks**
- b) Justify your answer with specific reference to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's - "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison" **20 Marks**

QUESTION 4

Briefly distinguish between the concepts in **any three** of the following pairs and cite their exponents.

- a) Condensation and displacement **10 Marks**
- b) Intentional fallacy and affective fallacy **10 Marks**
- c) Automatization and defamiliarization **10 Marks**
- d) Afrocentricity and Eurocentricity **10 marks**

QUESTION 5

- a) Describe mimetic criticism. **10 Marks**
- b) Although Plato and Aristotle are both mimetic critics, they occupy different ends of the mimetic criticism continuum. Discuss. **20 Marks**