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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2012

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: ENG 404

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. Answer TWO QUESTIONS.

2. Your answers should not exceed three pages.

3. Do not repeat material or write about the same text more than once.

4. Correct use of English and literary conventions will be rewarded and the reverse will be penalized.

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

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Section A: Novels

So Long a Letter Ba

1. "Even though Ramatoulaye did not see divorce as an option for her marital alienation she continued to take a stand against male domination and female subjugation." Using examples from the novella discuss this statement. [30]

The Red Haired Khumalo Bregin

2. In what way does the extract below re-iterate Bregin's thematic stance regarding the role of mindset in the context of post-Apartheid South Africa. [30]

'How could it happen, Nkulu!' she blurted. 'One minute, we were walking – then they came from nowhere and started hitting you, out of the blue!'

'Why are you so shocked?' he asked her in his awkward mumble. 'This kind of thing is nothing new. Blacks get it all the time. One black face is just the same as another to a white policeman,' he said bitterly.

'But it's changing, isn't it?' Chelsea said to him anxiously. 'All of that's changing now.'

'What is changing?' he challenged discouragingly. 'Laws, that's all. Inside, people still think and hate and act like they always did.'

The Bird of Heaven Dunseith

3. "From a political perspective the portrayal of events and circumstances in the novel, The Bird of Heaven can be viewed as an exoneration of the status quo and a demonization of dissenting voices." Discuss this statement. [30]

Section B: Drama and Poetry

Song of a Goat Clark

4. "Traditional healing and ritual are used to mitigate illnesses and misfortune." Use five examples from the play to demonstrate this. [30]

Crossings: A Senior Poetry Anthology Heywood

5. "Poetry in its oral form has been an integral part of African communities long before the advent of literacy." Using three poems discuss how this is evident in the way African poets write. [30]

6. Using examples from some of the poems you studied in this course discuss how community, family and kinship are reflected in these poems. [30]