

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION

DECEMBER, 2016

TITLE OF PAPER : MODERN CRITICAL THEORY

COURSE CODE : ENG 304 / IDE-ENG 304

TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer any TWO questions.
2. Each question carries 30 marks. The total marks for the examination is 60%.
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 room.
5. 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

Soyinka asserts that his African world embraces “precision machinery, oil rigs, hydro-electricity, my typewriter, railway trains (not iron snakes) machine guns, bronze sculptures etc” (Ashcroft, 1989: 129).

- i. Identify the postcolonial theory that Soyinka was responding to in the quotation above. [2]
- ii. Discuss the main idea(s) of this theory. [10]
- iii. What was Soyinka’s main argument in the quotation above in regard the argument(s) of this theory? [10]
- iv. Whose argument do you support and why? [8]

Question 2

With the aid of relevant Negritude literary text, illustrate that Negritude was indeed an African cultural renaissance. [30]

Question 3

“While western feminism demanded a new political, social and economic dispensation, African womanism, the variant of western feminism, negotiated for cultural fairness between males and females in society.” Sustain this view through a discussion of Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir, Betty Friedan and Chikwenye Ogunyemi’s feminist perceptions. [30]

Question 4

Discuss the development of Modernism in literature. Use any two texts studied in this course to sustain your argument. [30]

Question 5

“Postmodernist writings subvert the foundations of the accepted modes of thought and experience in order to reveal the meaninglessness of human existence and the underlying “abyss” or “void” or “nothingness.” Support this statement through an analysis of any postmodern text(s) you have studied. [30]