

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
&
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES
2013/2014 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2014**

COURSE TITLE : STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT I

COURSE CODE : TRS 200

DURATION : TWO (2) HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Choose and answer **three (3)** questions.
- b. For some of the questions refer closely to the relevant attached documents.
- c. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.

All questions are worth 20 marks.

**DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR
GRANTS YOU PERMISSION TO DO SO.**

TRS 200 (S) Studies in the Old Testament I, July 2014

Question 1

Comment on the observation that canonical placement of the Old Testament (OT) materials did not coincide with the chronology of their composition as demonstrate in the proposed compositional history of the OT by Flanders *et al* (1972). [20]

Question 2

Discuss the rationale for the application of ethical criticism in interpreting biblical texts, especially those contained in the Old Testament. [20]

Question 3

Explain why the myth as a literary form is suitable for communicating the subject matter of Genesis 1-11. [20]

Question 4

Give examples of the complex realities that are masked by the simple narration of Genesis 12-50. [20]

Question 5

Analyse the obituary of Moses in Deuteronomy 34 for the key Jewish religious beliefs that are embedded in it. [20]

Question 6

Discuss how the parable as a literary form is a suitable communication device in the story in 2 Samuel 12 about Prophet Nathan confronting King David on the latter's wrongful acts of committing adultery and arranging the murder of the Uriah the husband of Bathsheba. [20]

Question 7

According to Mishnah Avot Chapter 2 the Rabbi Tarfon said: "It is not incumbent on you to finish the work, but nor are you free to desist from it." Explain what this alleged instruction to the leaders of the post-exilic community indicate about the process of rebuilding the ancient Jewish community on return from Babylonia. [20]

Question 8

Identify relevant narrative material in the Chronicles which serve to ideologically emphasise divine approval of the Davidic dynasty. [20]