

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
&  
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**TRS 301 SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION, JULY 2014**

**TITLE OF PAPER : Studies in the New Testament I**  
**COURSE CODE : TRS 301**  
**DURATION : 2 Hours**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. The paper consists of four (4) printed pages cover page included.
4. All questions carry equal marks.

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

**Question 1**

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name” ( John 20: 30f). Using evidence from at least three gospels, discuss the historical trustworthiness of the gospel accounts. [20]

**Question 2**

Apply any one sociological model you have studied in this course in your critical reading of this passage. [20]

**The Soldiers Mock Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31)**

<sup>27</sup> Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**Question 3**

Do you think the Gospel of John is anti-Jewish in tone? What is the evidence in the Gospel that substantiates or refutes either claim? [20]

**Question 4**

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of arguments forwarded to support the theory that Mark was the first gospel to be written. Support your submissions with evidence from the gospels. [20]

### **Question 5**

From the passages below, what could be inferred about the author and the distinctive characteristics of Luke-Acts? [20]

#### **Passage A (Luke 1:1-4)**

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, 2 just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

#### **Passage B (Luke 3:1-14)**

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; 3 and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." 7 He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

**Question 6**

From the Acts of the Apostles, what could be summarised about the life and practice of the early church? To what extent does the early church faith and practice compare with churches in Swaziland today? [20]