

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

**TRS 402 MAIN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2016**

**TITLE OF PAPER : GOSPEL TRADITION I  
COURSE CODE : TRS 402  
DURATION : 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Choose and answer three (3) questions in all.
2. Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.
3. All questions carry equal marks.

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

**Question 1**

“The gospels really do not contain the words of Jesus but only the works of redactors who wanted to embellish and/or modify “myth stories” into what was apparently more spiritual and inspirational.” To what extent do you agree with this view? [20]

**Question 2**

In your opinion, what are the root causes of skepticism as to the historical value of the gospel tradition? [20]

**Question 3**

From a form critical point of view, how did pure miracle stories arise? Give specific examples in support of your answer. [20]

**Question 4**

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the criterion of dissimilarity as one of the methods used to establish the authenticity of tradition attributed to Jesus. [20]

**Question 5**

In your view, why would historians generally prefer earliest sources about Jesus than later ones? Support your answer with evidence from the primary texts. [20]

**Question 6**

Discuss the character of sources that were used by John in composing his gospel. [20]