

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

MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

**TITLE OF PAPER : THE GOSPEL TRADITIONS
COURSE CODE : TRS 208
DURATION : 2 Hours**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Answer three (3) questions in all.**
2. **Write in clear, grammatically correct sentences.**
3. **The paper consists of two (2) printed pages including the cover page.**
4. **All questions carry equal marks.**

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

TRS 208 The Gospel Traditions, (M) May 2018

Question 1

Is the presence of four versions about the life of Jesus an embarrassment or advantage to Christians? [20]

Question 2

Identify and discuss the factors that possibly influenced the writing of the gospels. [20]

Question 3

From the gospel tradition, what do we know of the Pharisees and on what bases were they in conflict with Jesus of Nazareth? [20]

Question 4

To which readers, from what perspective and for what purpose did Matthew write his gospel? [20]

Question 5

What made Jesus so popular with the people and why did his popularity decline later on? [20]

Question 6

Attempt a critical reading of the following passage: [20]

The Lament over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35)

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came, and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³ Nevertheless I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵ Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”