

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

**MAIN EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2017**

**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. The paper consists of three (3) 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 402 Gospel Tradition I, (M) November 2017**

**Question 1**

Explain why Osborne (1999:202) thinks that “a strictly chronological narration of the life of Jesus” was not the primary concern of the gospel writers. [20]

**Question 2**

Identify various forms contained in the gospel tradition and explain their function in the life of early Christian communities. [20]

**Question 3**

To what extent do you agree with the main assumptions of redaction critics in your reading of the Gospel tradition?

**Question 4**

Do you find any improved historical data in the Gospel of John as compared to the Gospel of Mark, Matthew and Luke? [20]

**Question 5**

Explain how and why the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew is different from the Gospel of Luke. [20]

**Question 6**

Attempt a critical reading of the pericopae provided below. [20]

**Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)**

2 And when he returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home.  
2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— 11 "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." 12 And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"