

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

MAIN EXAMINATION, MAY 2018

**TITLE OF PAPER : Gospel Tradition II
COURSE CODE : TRS 403
DURATION : 2 Hours**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **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 403 Gospel Tradition II, (M) May 2018

Question 1

How would you explain the differences in the presentation of the birth stories of Jesus in Matthew and Luke? [20]

Question 2

Why is it that the non-canonical gospels have not received the credibility that Mark, Matthew, Luke and John have enjoyed from the beginning? [20]

Question 3

What can you say about the hidden life of Jesus as reported from gospels you have studied in this course?

Question 4

Do you find the trials of Jesus before Pontius Pilate believable and what are the reasons to support your opinion? [20]

Question 5

What is your take of the theory that Jesus did not actually die on the cross but went into a comma, the coolness of the grave and the spices helped him to gain strength and off he escaped from the tomb. [20]

Question 6

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

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. ⁴² I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Laz'arus, come out." ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." (John 11:38-44, RSV)