



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

A. M. E. C. E. A

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MAIN EXAMINATION

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JANUARY – APRIL 2015 TRIMESTER

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

MLT 501: CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORIES

Date: April 2015	Duration: 2 Hours
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Instructions: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions
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- Q1. Literary theory increases our appreciation of literature (Tyson 2006). Demonstrate this premise with reference to three main aspects of three literary theories you handled in this course. **(15 marks)**
- Q2. Theories are not isolated entities, completely different from one another, theories can overlap with one another producing similar reading of one work (Tyson 2006). Justify this premise using psychoanalytic and Marxist approaches to interpret one literary work you are familiar with. **(15 marks)**
- Q3. As a critical approach, postcolonialism refers to a collection of theoretical and critical strategies used to examine the culture (literature, politics, history) of former colonies of the European empires and their relation to the rest of the world (Markaryk 1993). Identify and explain five main tenets of Post-colonial theory. **(15 marks)**
- Q4. Conceptions of the self have evolved in literature (Ref. Linda Smith's Decolonizing methodologies). Examine the ways in which these conceptions are mirrored in literary theory which responds to theories developed from positions of power. **(15 marks)**
- Q5. EITHER
a) Evaluate the relevance of gender theory in contemporary literary discourses. **(15 marks)**

OR

- b) Using Gennette's framework of or structuralism, examine the underlying principles that govern the composition of the short stories you read for this course.

(15 marks)

- Q6. The role of the reader cannot be omitted from our understanding of literature. Readers do not passively consume the meaning presented to them by an objective literary text; rather they actively make the meaning they find in literature (Tyson 2006).

Give your response to this statement with clear illustrations from theory and one work of literature.

(15 marks)

END