



**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (MMUST)**

MAIN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER FOR THE DEGREE

OF

MASTER OF ARTS (COMPARATIVE)

COURSE CODE: LIT 810

COURSE TITLE: CONTEMPORARY LITERARY THEORY

DATE: WEDNESDAY 6/12/2023

TIME: 2:00-5:00PM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer THREE questions. Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to exam cheating

➤ This paper consists of two printed pages. Please turn over.

1. With reference to at TWO scholars in each theoretical leaning, compare and contrast the key tenets of ONE classical theory and ONE contemporary theory of appreciating literature (20 marks).
2. Critically examine the relevance of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and Jacques Lacan to contemporary studies of psychoanalysis, sexuality and emotion in relation to literature.
3. Examine in depth the key contributions of Karl Marx, Fredrich Engels, Frederic James, Raymond Williams, Antonio Gramsci and Terry Eagleton to contemporary scholarship on Marxist theorizations (20 marks)
4. “Postcolonial theory, postcoloniality or postcolonialisms? “ Interrogate the key tenets of at least THREE renowned scholars of contemporary postcolonial theory and show the relevance of this thinking in modern literary studies (20 marks).
5. What is New Historicism and what are its main arguments in contemporary literary criticism? Attempt a reading of one African literary text using this theory (20 marks).
6. Discuss the key arguments of EITHER Queer Theory or Deconstructionism using the ideas of at least any TWO scholars of each movement (20 marks).
7. With reference to at least THREE scholars examine the relevance of Feminism as an analytical tool of reading gender dynamics and women issues in contemporary African novel (20 marks).
8. Examine ecocriticism as a modern theoretical space of understanding issues of the environment, climate and ecology in relation to creative works (20 marks)