



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

MAIN EXAM

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

FIRST YEAR SEMESTER TWO EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE

OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) IN LITERATURE

COURSE CODE: LIT 912

COURSE TITLE: STUDIES IN LIFE WRITING

DATE: TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2023 TIME: 200-500PM

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read through the questions carefully and answer Three (3) questions.
Question One (1) is compulsory.

Duration: 3HRS

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

- This paper consists of 2 printed pages. Please turn over.

Question One

Drawing on relevant illustrations to support your argument, argue for the centrality of life writing in the study of philosophy, history, and political science (20 marks)

Question Two

Referencing either 'biographical truth' or 'autobiographical truth' and any life writing text read in this course, account for the complexity of the concept of truth in life writing (20 marks)

Question Three

With a focus on one life writing text, explore the nature of relationality in life writing as ascribed to by Julia Watson and Sidonie Smith (20 marks)

Question Four

With close reference to Thomas Couser's theorization of vulnerability in life writing and one auto/biography, interrogate the complex power dynamics that define vulnerable subject[hood] (20 marks)

Question Five

Focusing on one contemporary auto/biography, explore the limits of experimentations with life that the author engages in (20 marks)

Question Six

Examine the nature of memory in life writing literature (20 marks)