



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2022/2023

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

THIRD-YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE:13/12/2022

TIME:8.30 – 10.30A.M

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (30MARKS)

- a) Using examples, explain any five reasons why theory is important in criticism. (15 marks)
- b) Elucidate processes involved in coming up with a comprehensive critical interpretation of a text (15 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20MARKS)

Analyse William Shakespeare's *Othello* through a feminist lens.

QUESTION THREE (20MARKS)

Using Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Weep Not, Child* highlight what post-colonial writers do.

QUESTION FOUR (20MARKS)

Attempt a Marxist interpretation of ANY text studied in this course

QUESTION FIVE (20MARKS)

Using formalist criticism, analyse the following poem.

Spring and All [By the road to the contagious hospital]
William Carlos Williams - 1883-1963

By the road to the contagious hospital
under the surge of the blue
mottled clouds driven from the

northeast—a cold wind. Beyond, the
waste of broad, muddy fields
brown with dried weeds, standing and fallen

patches of standing water
the scattering of tall trees

All along the road the reddish
purplish, forked, upstanding, twiggy
stuff of bushes and small trees
with dead, brown leaves under them
leafless vines—

Lifeless in appearance, sluggish
dazed spring approaches—

They enter the new world naked,
cold, uncertain of all
save that they enter. All about them
the cold, familiar wind—

Now the grass, tomorrow
the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf
One by one objects are defined—
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of
entrance—Still, the profound change
has come upon them: rooted, they
grip down and begin to awaken.