



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## University Examinations 2018/2019

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
OF EDUCATION ARTS

### ELI 3101: THEORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2019

TIME: 2 HOURS

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INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Differentiate between literary theory and literary criticism (6 marks)
- b) Discuss four characteristics of literature that distinguish it from other disciplines (4 marks)
- c) What is literary canon? (4 marks)
- d) Discuss any four genres of oral literature (8 marks)
- e) Discuss the following aspects of the novel
  - i. Plot
  - ii. Characterization
  - iii. Style
  - iv. The narrative perspective (8 marks)

#### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Compare and contrast the ideas of Plato and Aristotle and their contribution to literature (20 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the difference between the Epic and the Novel (12 marks)
- b) Discuss the similarity between the Epic and tragedy in terms of form (8 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the basic tenets of feminism using the texts studied in this course (20 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the major tenets of New-criticism (10 marks)
- b) How can New-criticism be applied in the study of poetry (10 marks)