



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(CITY CAMPUS - SCHOOL BASED)

ALI 202: LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM

Date: 27th August 2014

Time: 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of material in answer to more than one question.
- Importance is attached to correct and clear grammatical expression.
- SWITCH OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONES while in the examination room.

1. **(Compulsory)**

Define theory and demonstrate how it aids literary criticism. (30Mks)

2. With ample illustrations, define the following terms:

- (i) hyperbole.
- (ii) Irony.
- (iii) Purgation
- (IV)mimesis

(20MKS)

3. "Literature is the denunciation of the times in which one lives".(Camilo Jose)

Using literary examples, examine the validity of this assertion. (20MKS)

4. Examine the contention that "literature is realistic yet fictitious"
[20MKS]

5. Discuss the irrational elements of poetry with detailed reference to the poem below.(Wallace Stevens's "Metaphors of a Magnifico")

2. *Metaphors of a Magnifico*

Twenty men crossing a bridge,
Into a village,
Are twenty men crossing twenty bridges,
Into twenty villages,
Or one man
Crossing a single bridge into a village.

This is an old song
That will not declare itself . . .

Twenty men crossing a bridge,
Into a village,
Are
Twenty men crossing a bridge
Into a village.

That will not declare itself,
Yet is certain as meaning . . .

The boots of the men clump
On the boards of the bridge.
The first white wall of the village
Rises through the fruit-trees.
Of what was it I was thinking?
So the meaning escapes.

The first white wall of the village . . .
The fruit trees . . .

[Wallace Stevens]