



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE  
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE  
(MAIN CAMPUS)**

**ALI 803: LITERARY THEORY AND THE PRACTICE OF  
CRITICISM**

*Date: 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013*

*Time: 9.00 – 12noon*

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer THREE questions in all.
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of material in answer to more than one question.
- Candidates are allowed 15 minutes to read through the questions before commencement of examination.

1. With close reference to at least two texts, illustrate how knowledge of literary theory enhances a critical analysis and appreciation of texts.
2. What, in your opinion, is the relevance of Marxist theory to the interpretation of literary texts today?
3. Using post-structuralism as your point of departure, outline the use of deconstruction in a reading of texts.
4. With example drawn from literary texts, explore the ways in which feminist theory has shaped current debates on gender issues.
5. "Postcolonial theories enable the reader gain a keener and richer insight into the entire worldview of an artist and hence a wider and deeper perspective on the work of art. It enlarges the scope of traditional criticism". Discuss the validity (or otherwise) of this statement.