



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

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LITERATURE**

**(MAIN CAMPUS)**

**ALI 820: EPIC**

*Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2014*

*Time: 9.00 – 12noon*

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer **THREE** questions in total. Question one is compulsory.
- Avoid duplication of material in answer to more than one question.
- A lot of importance is attached to clarity of expression.
- Credit will be given to students who use examples other than those used in class.
- Each questions carries 20 marks.



### QUESTION 1 COMPULSORY

With reference to any specific adaptation of **one** classical epic film, discuss the trends in the epic form.

2. "*Ulysses* is an epic 'body' whose episode (and within whose episodes) are somatically interconnected arts, organs and hours." Discuss with reference to James Joyce's epic.

### 3. EITHER

(a) Undertake a critical analysis of *Emperor Shaka: a Zulu Epic* in relation to Mazisi Kunene's intention of writing the epic.

### OR

(b) Discuss D.T. Niane's depiction of the epic hero in *Sundiata: an Epic of Old Mali*.

4. Critically analyze the epic style used in Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*.

5. Discuss the epic conventions with reference to Homer's *The Iliad*.