



*(Knowledge for Development)*

# **KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

## **UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR  
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

### **SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE  
LITERATURE**

**COURSE CODE: LIT 824**

**COURSE TITLE: AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**DATE: 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

**TIME: 11.00AM - 1.00PM**

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#### **INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES**

Answer any **THREE** Questions.

**TIME: 2 Hours**

*This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►*

**KIBU** observes **ZERO** tolerance to examination cheating.

### **QUESTION ONE (20 MARKS)**

According to Richard Wright, Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* carries no theme, no message and no thought. Contextualise and analyse this critique.

### **QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)**

"Crossing borders within the academic world, moving in and out of black studies, traditional English departments and cultural studies, I am continually distressed by the willingness of one group to repudiate domination in one form while supporting it in another—white men who take sexism seriously but are not concerned with racism or vice versa, black men who are concerned with ending racism but do not want to challenge sexism, white women who want to challenge sexism but cling to racism, black women who want to challenge racism and sexism but claim class hierarchy." (Bell Hooks) Discuss with reference to Toni Morrison's *Paradise*.

### **QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Critically examine the role of spirituals, folktales as well as blues and jazz to the growth of African American Literature.

### **QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

Bigger Thomas is presented as not only a rebel but also a personality beyond extension. Justify this statement with reference to Native Son by Richard Wright.

### **QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Compare and contrast the works of Phyllis Whitley and Alice Walker. To what extent can it be argued that the concerns of pioneer African-American writers are still bedeviling present day America?