

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY, 2013

TITLE OF PAPER: GENDER AND SOCIETY IN AFRICA

COURSE CODE: H623

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS  
2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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1. (a) “Whereas scholarship has acknowledged the importance of comparing women’s experiences across cultures, a comparative analysis of narratives through which women reflect on their experiences is yet to be done.” (Estella Musiiwa, 2012). In the light of this observation, critically analyse the similarities and differences in the way Helen Joseph (1986) and Shula Marks (1987) have used the autobiographical and the epistolary (letters) narratives respectively, to illuminate women’s experiences of, and reaction against apartheid.

OR

- (b) Evaluate Africanist scholars’ conceptualization of ‘gender’ and the epistemological implications thereof.
2. How have any two scholars perceived and presented the way African women chiefs are positioned and the way they position themselves in society?
3. Compare and contrast the ways in which Louise White (1990) and Teresa Barnes (2004) conceptualize ‘gender’ and present the experiences of women and men in urban areas.
4. Discuss changes in the ways Robert Morrell (1998), Lahoucine Ouzogane and Robert Morrell (2005), and Egoji Uchendu (2008) have conceptualized ‘masculinity’, and the epistemological implications thereof in gender history?
5. With reference to one African country, trace the changes that have taken place in the kind of knowledge any four scholars have produced in the period between the 1980s and 2000, in their study of either colonial or post- colonial African politics from a gendered perspective?

-END OF QUESTION PAPER-