

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY, 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: COMPARATIVE LABOUR HISTORY

COURSE CODE: HIS606

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

2. EACH QUESTION CARRIES 100 MARKS

DO NOT OPEN PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION.

1. “The attention to bottom- up history, cultural forms and gendered patterns of work were part of a mix that went into the making of the new international labour studies and perhaps justified the label of ‘new’ at that time” (Marcus Taylor, 2011). To what extent, and with what epistemological implications, have Allen F. Isaacman and Barbara S. Isaacman (2004) engaged the New International Labour Studies’ (1980s- 1990s) approach to African labour historiography in their presentation of the Chikunda military slavery between 1750 and 1850?
2. Compare and contrast three Southern African scholars’ presentation of the process of labour migration in the mining industry in Swaziland, Malawi and Mozambique up to the 1920s.
3. **EITHER** (a) “From the very earliest years of the industry, the mine owners’ desire to control expenditure on African labour produced grossly inadequate accommodation in the Rhodesian compounds” (Charles van Onselen, 1976). Discuss the validity of this Marxist approach to compound historiography. Support your response with other scholars’ views on the compound system in Southern Africa.

OR (b) “van Onselen’s major contribution is to demonstrate that class consciousness and effective means of worker responses were possible without formal organisations” (Richard Roberts, 1981/82). Comment on this observation with reference to Charles van Onselen’s (1973/ 1976), Richard Moorsom’s (1977), Ian Phimister’s (1978), Muntu Masina’s (2002) and Sifiso Siphso Hlanze’s (2013) conceptualisation and presentation of African worker consciousness in Southern Africa.

4. To what extent, and with what epistemological effects, have Ken Luckhardt and Brenda Wall (1980), Jane L. Parpart (1986), and Iris Berger (1992) used the ‘race’ concept and the and ‘gender’ concept to explain women’s participation in Southern African trade unions?
5. **EITHER** (a) Analyse the changes that have taken place in the manner Oliver B. Pollak (1973), Peter L. Wickins (1974), Philip Bonner (1978) and H. Bradford (1987) have presented the Industrial and Commercial Workers’ Union (ICU).

OR (b) “At the cross- roads of the politics of transnationalism and globalisation”. Discuss the validity of this statement with reference to the participation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in transnational and global trade unionism between 1991 and 2002.

END OF QUESTION PAPER