



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

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

CITY CAMPUS

ALI 820: EPIC

Date: 15th July 2017

Time: 9.00 - 12.00pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO.
- All questions carry equal marks
- Avoid unnecessary duplication of material in answer to more than one question
- Importance is given to correct and clear grammatical expression
- All mobile phones MUST BE SWITCHED OFF.



QUESTION 1: COMPULSORY

Critically analyze the major defining characteristics of the epic form using at least **one** folk and **one** post literate epic for illustration. (20 marks)

2. *The Aenid* is designed to exalt Augustus's golden age – an ordered society – and to glorify its virtues and finest features." Discuss the validity of this statement using the epic hero Aeneas and other major characters. (20 marks)

3. In *Song of Roland*, "The warriors are stereotypes while the narrator is openly biased towards the Franks." Discuss (20 marks)

4. With reference to the griot, apply the theory of narratology, to *Sundiata: an Epic of old Mali*. (20 marks)

5. *The Lianja Epic* is a representation of "the great deeds of a legendary Mongo hero and the fascinating socio-historical, economic and religious context of the Mongo people." Discuss (20 marks)