

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, PIETERMARITZBURG
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SUBJECT: MODULE & CODE: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER STUDIES (GEST202PS2)

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION: 27 November 2014

DURATION: 3 Hours

TOTAL MARKS: 100

INTERNAL EXAMINERS: Dr Janet Muthuki

EXTERNAL EXAMINER: Ms Nokwanda Nzuza

STUDENTS ARE REQUESTED, IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS, TO WRITE LEGIBLY.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper consists of **2** pages. Please ensure that you have **both** of them.
2. Answer **THREE** questions. Choose **ONE** from each of sections **A**, **B** and **C**.
3. Please answer each question in a new page of the answer booklet.

SECTION A

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

Either

Question 1

According to R.W Connell (2002), gender is not just a process of social construction but it is a social structure that shapes all aspects of life. Explain what is meant by gender as a:

- a) Social construction
- b) Social structure

In your explanation show the ways in which gender is embedded in the individual, interactional, and institutional dimensions of our society. Illustrate your answer with specific examples from the class readings
(30 Marks)

Or

Question 2

What is meant by the term "patriarchy"? What explanations are commonly given for the existence of patriarchy? Explain and evaluate at least four of these explanations. In your explanations draw from cultural as well as feminist perspectives drawn from class readings and lectures.

(30 Marks)

SECTION B

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

Either

Question 3

Critically discuss the different feminist perspectives for dealing with sexually explicit material. Examine the validity of these perspectives in the context of contemporary South African culture of human rights.

**Or
(PTO)**

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Question 4

Critically discuss the main points of the South African's Sexual Offenses Act. What could be added to this Act to make it more gender equitable in dealing with rape cases in the country?
(30 Marks)

SECTION C

Answer ONE question from this section.

Either

Question 5

Using the following narrative, discuss why HIV/AIDS can be considered a gendered disease.

Deborah in Uganda lost her husband to HIV/AIDS related complications and is herself very sick. Her brother in-law tried from the very beginning to inherit her, but she categorically refused so as not to infect him and his wife. He repeatedly told her that he does not care that she is HIV positive and is willing to take the risk of becoming infected. He harassed her for almost a year. When she held firm and refused him, she was ostracised by the entire family and could not rely on them for anything, even moral support. Now he is trying to claim the land that his brother left jointly to them

In your discussion examine the relationship between HIV/AIDS, culture, sexual practice and issues of power
(40 Marks)

Or

Question 6

Using the example of Sarah Bartmann, critically discuss how African women's bodies have been represented in dominant western discourses. Also discuss ways in which African feminists have attempted to challenge the dominant representations.

(40 Marks)

``End``