**KSA 3104 LITERARY THEORY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF KISWAHILI**

**LITERATURE CU 4 CH 60**

**Course Objectives**

1. To provide students with the theoretical approaches and techniques applicable in literary composition and criticism
2. To provide students with an opportunity to apply the literary theories and techniques in practical appreciation and criticism

**Course Descriptions**

This course examines the theories of literary criticism as manifested in the development of Kiswahili literature. Among these theories, the following will be considered: classicism and neo-classicism, realism, romanticism, structuralism, aesthetics, psychoanalysis, Marxism and feminism. A practical appraisal of different theories will be made to underscore the relevancy and appropriateness of Kiswahili literary works.

**Course Outline**

General introduction to literary movements, theories and practices:

Introduction to classicism and neo-classicism

Romanticism

Naturalism, impressionism, expressionism Realism

Literary Theory:

Structuralism

Russian formalism

The works of Saussure, Levi- Straus, Althusserk,

Ricocur, Lacan, Focalt, Anozie

Post – Structuralism

Semiotics:

Structuralism and Semiotics

The concept of the sign and the subject

Signification and communication codes

Psychoanalysis:

Introduction to the work of Freud

Myth and society

The symbol

Literature and psychoanalysis

The works of Lacon and Kristeva

Feminist Literary theory:

Introduction to gender issues

History of Patriarchy

Gender and Genre:

Woman and literary production

The woman, the test and the critic

Portrayal of women characters in Swahili novels

Marxist Aesthetics:

The concept of realism in literature

The impact of George Lukacs on literary theory

The impact of French and Italian Marxists on literary theory

The impact of the Frankfurt school on literary theory

The impact of Russian linguistics on literary theory

(Bakthin and Volosinov)

Reception theory:

Introduction to phenomenology

Major theories: Gadamer, Hauss, Iser

Marxist reception theory

Critical appraisal of the above theories in relation to Kiswahili literature

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. describe the different literary theories
2. apply literary theories in reading, interpreting and critical analysis of literary

texts

**Mode of Delivery**

* Lectures
* Group Discussion
* Role Play

**Mode of Assessment**

* Course work and Oral presentations will contribute 30%
* Final Examination will constitute 70%

**References**

Dipio, D. (1998): *Theory and Criticism of Literature*. Department of Distance Education

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Dorsch, T.S. (1965): *Classical Literary Criticism,* Penguin, London

Jaffeson, A. and Robey, D. (eds.) (1991): *Modern Literary Criticism*, B.T.Bladford,

London

Kimani, N. and Chimerah, R. (1999): *Ufundishaji wa Fasihi: Nadharia na Mbinu*, JKF,

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Wamitila, K.W. (2002): *Uhakiki wa Fasihi*, Phoenix, Nairobi