



*"Investing in Africa's Future"*

## **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**HEC 201 SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS**

**END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016**

**LECTURER: MR. P. SVONGORO**

**DURATION: (3 HRS)**

---

### ***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. Answer any **THREE** questions.
2. Begin each answer on a fresh page.
3. Marks will be awarded for clarity of expression and language use.





Answer any **THREE** questions.

**Question 1**

Using examples, explain the view that 'verbs typically denote actions, adjectives typically denote states while prepositions typically denote locations or relationships'. [20 marks]

**Question 2**

Using any **four** examples of your own, show that the study of syntax 'involves studying how phrases are nested in other phrases'. [20 marks]

**Question 3**

Explain the issues of interest to someone studying Syntax and Semantics which are raised by the popular sentence by Noam Chomsky, "Colourless green ideas sleep furiously". [20 marks]

**Question 4**

Demonstrate the syntax-semantics interface by showing that syntactic elements (N, V, A, P, Adv for instance) have distinct roles in syntax which change when one looks at thematic/semantic roles. [20 marks]

**Question 5**

Study the following constructions and answer the question which follows.

- (a) The French History teacher
- (b) Old men and women
- (c) The prostitute appealed to the Pope.

Using the three examples above as a starting point, explain the different types of ambiguity and show how ambiguity is a syntactic and semantic issue. [20 marks]

**Question 6**

Discuss the view by Mackey (2001: 112) that "Like words, phrases and sentences have meanings that can be analysed in terms of their relation to other meanings. In other words, what a sentence or phrase refers to can be explained in terms of another". [20 marks]

**END OF EXAMINATION**