



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION**

**NHIR 422: CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE  
END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS**

**MAY/JUNE 2024**

**LECTURER: DR N.D. PINDUKA**

**DURATION: 3 HRS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer **THREE [3]** questions in all

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All questions carry equal marks

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Start **each** question on a new page in your answer booklet

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Do not repeat material

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## SECTION A: COMPULSORY

### Question 1

Beyond being a legal concept, constitutional rights need to be viewed as a social construction that has evolved and manifested in a variety of ways across human history. To understand them, one must adopt Nkrumah's Consciencism about the "ideological concept of philosophy." Nkrumah disapproves in his works of any abstract interpretation of philosophical history that severs the link between philosophical concepts and the socio-political environment from which they emerged. He notes that every philosophy has a social component as all philosophical viewpoints are the outcome of certain socio-political configurations and no philosophy develops in a vacuum. In this sense, it is hard to achieve meaningful social change in Africa without rethinking constitutional rights due to their Eurocentric underpinnings.

Reflect on the snippet above and write a persuasive and informative international relations academic position paper. [40 marks].

## SECTION B: CHOOSE ANY TWO QUESTIONS.

### Question 2

Based on **your exceptional standing** as Africa University's **top international relations student**, the African Union Human Rights Commission has asked you to write a manuscript with the title: Constitutionalizing **blue rights** has not *ipso facto* translated into empirical realities in Africa: Foundations and the Possible Way Forward. [30 marks].

### Question 3

In the framework of **three African states** of your choosing, as the top candidate in Africa University's Constitutional Rights and Social Change course, identify the main obstacles to the effective and efficient implementation of **specific constitutionally established red rights** and suggest ways to overcome them. [30 marks].



#### Question 4

The law is like an old, but still vibrant, tree that is firmly rooted in history but still puts out new shoots, takes new grafts, and occasionally drops dead wood. It is not to be compared to a venerable antique that can be taken down, dusted, admired, and put back on the shelf because social changes may not occur. For the sake of society's advancement, an unending reflective process is central.

Prepare an international relations essay of **1500 words** based on the extract above. [30 marks].

#### Question 5

Society is a dynamic entity. It has an intricate system of movements and reversals that push it in various directions. This struggle gets ingrained in the social system when it ultimately works to the movement's advantage. A successful movement, like the Save the Environment or trade union movements, may integrate into the societal structure. Once the movement's objective is met, it could end.

Comment on the above extract in the context of **five African states**, each from the different Regional Economic Communities (RECs). [30 marks].