



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHIR 423: WOMEN, POWER AND AFRICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

END OF SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

LECTURER: DR KNOCKS TAPIWA ZENGENI

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **THREE** questions.
 - Answer compulsory question in **Section A** and any other **two** in Section B
 - Section A carries 40 Marks and each question in Section B carries 30 Marks.
-

SECTION A

Question 1

Colonialism left legacies that remain both beneficial and relevant, alongside its harmful ones. As a keen observer of African history and politics, give your opinion on how colonial rule may have made the world safer for African women. [40]

SECTION B

Question 2

There are many untold stories of women's role in the resistance against European colonialism from the women at the frontlines in Algeria and Zimbabwe to the Somali women poets whose words captivated and inspired the freedom movement. Women were pivotal to liberation parties and movements, but were often pigeonholed with less powerful 'women's wing' of the movement. Basically, the voice of African women themselves has been underrepresented. As an activist for women empowerment write an essay suggesting strategies of repositioning African women's role in the liberation history. [30]

Question 3

Colonial attitudes interacted with indigenous practices to account for the respective roles of women and men in the colonial economy. With reference to a specific country, explain in detail the decline of women's position in the colonial and post-colonial periods. [30]

Question 4

Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba is undoubtedly pre-colonial Africa's most famous, and certainly her best documented queen. As in many other countries in Africa during the pre-colonial era, women were held in high esteem. They were considered to be the bedrock of society and often held high positions as priestesses and rulers. Critically discuss the role and status of women in pre-colonial Africa. [30]

Question 5

The new political opportunities of democratization have offered a platform for professional and progressive women from which to claim political spaces in the mainstream. As an activist for women

empowerment write an essay suggesting strategies of enhancing women's political participation in African political systems.

END OF PAPER