



"Investing in Africa's Future"

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES AND
EDUCATION
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

NTPT509 HISTORY AND METHODS OF THE STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

**END OF SEMESTER 1 EXAMINATIONS
NOVEMBER 2021**

LECTURER: Dr C. MWANDAYI

DURATION: 5 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do NOT write your name on the answer sheet.
2. Answer ONE Question
3. Credit will be given for neat, well-written and lucid work.

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1. One of the major contributions of the historical-critical methods was to influence the 'removal' of the Bible from the 'sacred shelf' as it were, and place it in the public shelves where it would be studied just like any ordinary piece of literature. As such, the interests, ideologies and, or, agendas of the various authors or final compilers of the biblical narratives would be studied also.
 - a) With clear examples, demonstrate how (a) relevant historical-critical method(s) may assist you to expose how biblical authors probably used persuasive devices to advance their agendas.
 - b) Assess the extent to which the emergence of the traditional historical-critical methods in the 18th Century CE may be regarded as marking a turning point from the dogma of *sacrificium intellectus* that characterised the period prior to the 18th Century CE.
2. Literary critics call their approach to texts as "synchronic" rather than "diachronic."
 - a) With reference to the views of any Old Testament scholars that you have studied for this paper, demonstrate your understanding of the terms 'synchronic' and 'diachronic' reading of the biblical text.
 - b) With reference to the genre criticism and reader-response criticism of the Bible, assess the validity of the literary critics' claim in the statement above.
3. Old Testament scholars who subscribe to a materialistic interpretation of literature view texts as 'a representation of power, sustaining the ideological world in which they are created.'
 - a) With reference to patriarchal and monarchic traditions respectively, assess the extent to which this materialistic interpretation may lead to an objective analysis of biblical texts.
 - b) Examine the role of Postcolonial Criticism and Feminist Criticism in the exposition of how the biblical texts may represent the power of, and indeed sustain the ideological world in which they were created.

END OF PAPER