



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

NHIR 423: WOMEN, POWER AND AFRICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

AUGUST/DECEMBER 2021

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DURATION: 5 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer **One (1)** question only

Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentations

All questions carry 100 marks

Your full answer should be between 4 and 6 pages

Any form of plagiarism will severely be penalised

Question 1

- A. Critically discuss the status of women in pre-Colonial African societies. [50 marks]
- B. Women's role in formal politics in Africa is expanding principally because women constitute a potentially influential voting bloc in an era in which the liberalisation of African economic and political systems limits politicians' abilities to build electoral support on patronage. Discuss and defend your answer with suitable examples. [50 marks]

Question 2

- A. While political independence succeeded in artificial and superficial sense in granting space for African cultural reclamation, this success presented little or no joy in restoring the dignified space African women enjoyed in pre-Colonial Africa. Evaluate this assertion and cite examples. [50 marks]
- B. How did changes in the colonial period affect women's access to resources, political power, and status? How did women respond to these changes or transformations? [50 marks]

Question 3

- A. Despite evidence of why it is important to have women in decision-making, several factors continue to undermine women's political participation in Africa. What has been the role of women in contemporary African politics? Under what conditions do women have more power? [50 marks]
- B. "Fundamental to the constraints that women face is an entrenched patriarchal system in which family control and decision-making powers are in the hands of men" (African Barometer, 2021, p. 20). Critically evaluate this statement in relation to the African context. [50 marks]

End of Paper