

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

First Year Second Semester

ENGLISH

Women and the Renaissance

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

Answer any three questions taking at least one from each group. Questions from Group B must be answered with reference to at least two authors discussed in class. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A

- 1) Write an essay on the 'feminist turn' in early modern literary criticism with reference to Milton's *Eve* or Shakespeare's Ophelia.
- 2) How do patriarchal anxieties surrounding female sexuality and female sovereignty mirror each other in Webster's *Duchess of Malfi*?

Group B

- 3) In what ways and to what ends do early modern women poets 'appropriate and abrogate' the dominant tropes of Petrarchan love poetry?
- 4) Discuss the significance of religious visions in the writings of medieval/early modern women.
- 5) Critically analyze the strategies used by women writers to participate in the public world of letters by means of the private, confessional form of the lyric.
- 6) To what extent are women writers of the early modern period engaged in the task of 'remembering' and 'recollecting' women's stories and histories?