



University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

HIS 502/502E

DEGREE EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2018

Time: 3 HOURS

Subject: History Honours: HIS 502/502E

Paper: Philosophy of History: Method, Technique and Historiography

Marks: 100

Instructions: Students must answer THREE questions.

This paper consists of TWO pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners

Professor G. Minkley

Professor J. B. Peires

Professor L. E. Wotshela

External Examiner

Prof. R. Molapo

Instructions: Students must answer THREE questions.

1. Michael Ignatieff has argued that 'the past is an argument'. What do you think is meant by this? Discuss in relation to the nature of historiography. (33⅓)
2. The word "History" can be interpreted as "the events of the past" or as "a book written by a historian concerning the events of the past." Discuss the difficulties which confront the historian in trying to arrive at an accurate picture of the past events. (33⅓)
3. Jenkins and Munslow have argued that history texts are always organized around three genres: reconstructionist, constructionist or deconstructionist. Outline and critically compare these three genres. (33⅓)
4. "The main aim of research ethics is to protect the welfare of the research participant." How would you, as an oral history researcher, set about getting the information you need without damaging the interests of the people you intend to interview? (33⅓)
5. Joan Scott says that 'experience is at once always already an interpretation and something that needs to be interpreted'. In relation to South Africa, do you agree? Illustrate with examples. (33⅓)
6. Outline and evaluate the current state of South African historiography. (33⅓)
7. Critically discuss the historiography of decolonisation in Africa. (33⅓)
8. What prompted the transformation of the South African historiography during the decade of the 1970, and how did that revolution buttress a deeper understanding of the socio-economic and class formations in this country? (33⅓)
9. African scholarship as engendered by black historians struggled in the face of apartheid policy, but ironically it was not helped much by 'radical historians' in the late twentieth century. Critically analyse this statement citing relevant examples. (33⅓)

TOTAL: 100 Marks