



## NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

### Faculty of Arts

### Department of Languages

### 2019\_1 EXAMINATION

**COURSE TITLE:** BLACK DIASPORA LITERATURE – AFRICAN AMERICAN

**COURSE CODE:** ENG313

**CREDIT UNITS:** 2

**DURATION:** TWO HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer **Two** Questions out of the three. An additional mark will be given for clarity of expression

1. Give convincing reasons why works by non-African Americans qualify to be called African American literature (23 marks/1 hour)
2. *The responsibility of a writer is to excavate the experience of the people who produced him* - James Baldwin  
Discuss early African-American writers who not only wrote about the culture of racial discrimination and slavery in pre- and post-independence America, but also used their literary works as tools of hope, comfort and freedom to the average African-American. Discuss with particular reference to **two** of the novels highlighted below:
  - i. 'An Hymn to Humanity' by Phyllis Wheatley
  - ii. 'Bury Me in a Free Land' by Frances E. W. Harper
  - iii. William Wells Brown's *Clotel; or, The President's Daughter* (1853)
  - iv. Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig* (1859)(23 marks/1 hour)
3. Some of the most memorable novels written after the African-American civil rights movement are the Pulitzer-prize-winning *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Discuss ANY of the two novels portrayal of the average African-American woman in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early centuries America.  
(23 marks/1 hour)