

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 2, Semester 1,
2018/2019

ENG 2127 – Gendering Literature

Open-book Examination

Two hours

Answer TWO questions. Question 1 is compulsory.

PART A

1. Discuss what drives “the corporeal, performative reiteration of masculinity” (Stefan Horlacher, 2017), and thereafter analyse the above in relation to the crisis of masculinity.

PART B

EITHER

2. Mark Breitenberg (1996) claims that “the constitutive feature of early modern maleness is not, as patriarchal narratives might suggest, its unquestionable power but its anxiety”.

Critically discuss William Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus* in the light of this statement.

OR

3. In *Brokeback Mountain*, “hypermasculine embodiment of western manhood is set against the background of emotional deprivation and child abuse” (Elzbieta Klimek-Dominiak, 2009).

Critically examine Annie Proulx’ short story ‘Brokeback Mountain’ and Ang Lee’s film *Brokeback Mountain* in relation to this statement.

OR

4. “A woman in disguise smokes out the male world, perceiving masculinity as a form of acting, the manner rather than the man.” (Juliet Dusinberre, 1975)

Use this statement as a starting point to discuss cross-dressing, or female masculinity, or both. You should draw on Judith Halberstam’s ‘Introduction to Female Masculinity’ (1988).
