

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree in Arts (English), Year 2, Semester 1, 2016/2017

ENG 2127: Gendering Literature

Two Hours

Open Book Exam

Answer **TWO** questions. **Question 1 is compulsory.**

1. "Woolf's room was a wish for freedom of mind, independence of property and body from fathers and husbands, professors and judges, all men of power and wealth who would tell women what to do" (Sally Alexander). In light of this statement, critically examine how Virginia Woolf explores the influence of financial and spatial autonomy on women's writing in *A Room of One's Own*.

OR

Discuss the manner in which Karoor Nilakantha Pillai's short story *The Wooden Dolls* and the film based on the story, *The Census*, engage with state, community, and private understandings of gendered identity.

2. A strong tendency within feminist scholarship was the portrayal of "women as active agents whose lives are far richer and more complex than past narratives had suggested" (Saba Mahmood). Discuss this statement in relation to Fatema Mernissi's *Scheherazade Goes West*.
3. "In *Frames of War*, Judith Butler provokes us to think about frameworks that shape how we view and judge. As such, frames are always operations of power." Discuss this statement with reference to any **two** of the literary texts you have studied in class.
