

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 2, Semester 1, 2017/2018

ENG 2127: Gendering Literature

Two Hours

Open Book Exam

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

1. a) "The painter constructs, the photograph discloses" (Susan Sontag, *On Photography*). Using this statement as a starting point, critically discuss how the 'language of images' genders subjects in paintings and photographs. Your answer should refer to both John Berger's *Ways of Seeing* and Sontag's *On Photography*.

**OR**

b) Critically examine Eve Oishi's "Visual Perversions: Race, Sex, and Cinematic Pleasure" in relation to how intersectionality and the "perverse spectator" complicate the discussion of gender and gender binaries in Laura Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema". Your answer should refer to both Oishi's and Mulvey's essays.

2. Discuss Orientalism as a regime of knowledge that requires "a perverse reading". Refer to Said, Memissi and Oishi.

3. Fatema Memissi stated, "Every event, every act regarding women and how others ...react to them, has to be decoded and read on two distinct levels: what it expresses in its manifest meaning, and what it does not tell or tries to suppress from expression." Discuss Memissi's use of multiple registers in *Scheherazade Goes West*.

4. "Narrative, whether in story-telling, or the visual, is a struggle over agency." Discuss this statement in relation to any of the texts you have studied for the course.

\*\*\*\*\*