Tutorial Letter 101/0/2021

Foundations in English Literary Studies

ENG1501

Year module

Department of English Studies

This tutorial letter contains important information about your module.

BARCODE

Open Rubric

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Dear Student

As part of this tutorial letter, we wish to inform you that Unisa has implemented a transformation charter based on five pillars and eight dimensions. In response to this charter, we have also placed curriculum transformation high on the agenda. For your information, curriculum transformation includes the following pillars: student-centred scholarship, the pedagogical renewal of teaching and assessment practices, the scholarship of teaching and learning, and the infusion of African epistemologies and philosophies. These pillars and their principles will be integrated at both the programme and module levels, as a phased-in approach. You will notice the implementation thereof in your modules, and we encourage you to fully embrace these changes during your studies at Unisa.

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE MODULE

We are pleased to welcome you to this module and hope that you will find it both interesting and rewarding. We will do our best to make your study of this module successful. You will be well on your way to success if you start studying early in the year and resolve to do the assignments thoroughly and in good time for submission.

A number of tutorial letters will be placed on the ENG1501 site on *myUnisa* during the year. A tutorial letter is our way of communicating with you about teaching, learning and assessment. Please make sure you check this site regularly so that you are aware of any new material that is available or announcements that have been made. Note that *myUnisa* announcements are also sent to your Unisa *myLife* e-mail address, so it is important that you get into the habit of checking this e-mail account.

Tutorial Letter 101 (this letter) contains important information about the scheme of work, resources and assignments for this module. We urge you to read it carefully and to keep it at hand when working through the study material, working on your assignments, preparing for the examination and addressing questions to your lecturers.

In *Tutorial Letter 101*, you will find the assignments and assessment criteria as well as instructions on the preparation and submission of the assignments. This tutorial letter also provides all the information you need about the prescribed study material and other resources as well as how to obtain these. Please study this information carefully and make sure that you get hold of the prescribed material **as soon as possible**. We have also included certain general and administrative information that will help you understand how this module works.

Right from the start we would like to point out that you must read all the tutorial letters you receive during the semester immediately and carefully, as they always contain important, and sometimes urgent, information.

In order to succeed at this module, you need to work carefully through the following resources:

- *Tutorial Letter 101* as it contains general module and assessment information
- *Tutorial Letter 501*, which is your primary tuition source that guides you towards achieving the module outcomes
- *Tutorial Letter 102*, which offers further guidance on how to go about working through the material and preparing for assignments and the examination. It also contains additional exercises and writing-skill support

We hope that you will enjoy this module and wish you all the best!

2 PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

2.1 Purpose

This module aims to establish a literary and academic foundation that will provide you with the basic skills you require to further your studies in English literature. You will learn to apply appropriate genre-specific reading strategies to a range of literary texts and you will also be expected to demonstrate the basic skills of writing academic English. In particular, this module aims to introduce you to the basics of reading and analysing literature in the forms of poetry, short stories and a novel.

All the assignments invite you to develop critical thinking and writing skills. Each will take you through a process of learning in which you will encounter a diversity of ideas. The assignments are designed to guide you towards an informed understanding of how meaning is created and conveyed in literature.

2.2 Outcomes

This module provides a foundation for literary study. Its outcomes develop your ability to:

- demonstrate an informed understanding of the genre-specific reading strategies required to read a range of literary texts in different genres at an inferential level
- demonstrate an informed understanding of the literary features that characterize each genre
- demonstrate an ability to identify these features in literary texts and comment on their significance in the production of textual meaning; and
- demonstrate argumentative skills in the form of a sustained written analysis of a literary text, using subject-specific conventions and acceptable academic discourse

3 LECTURERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

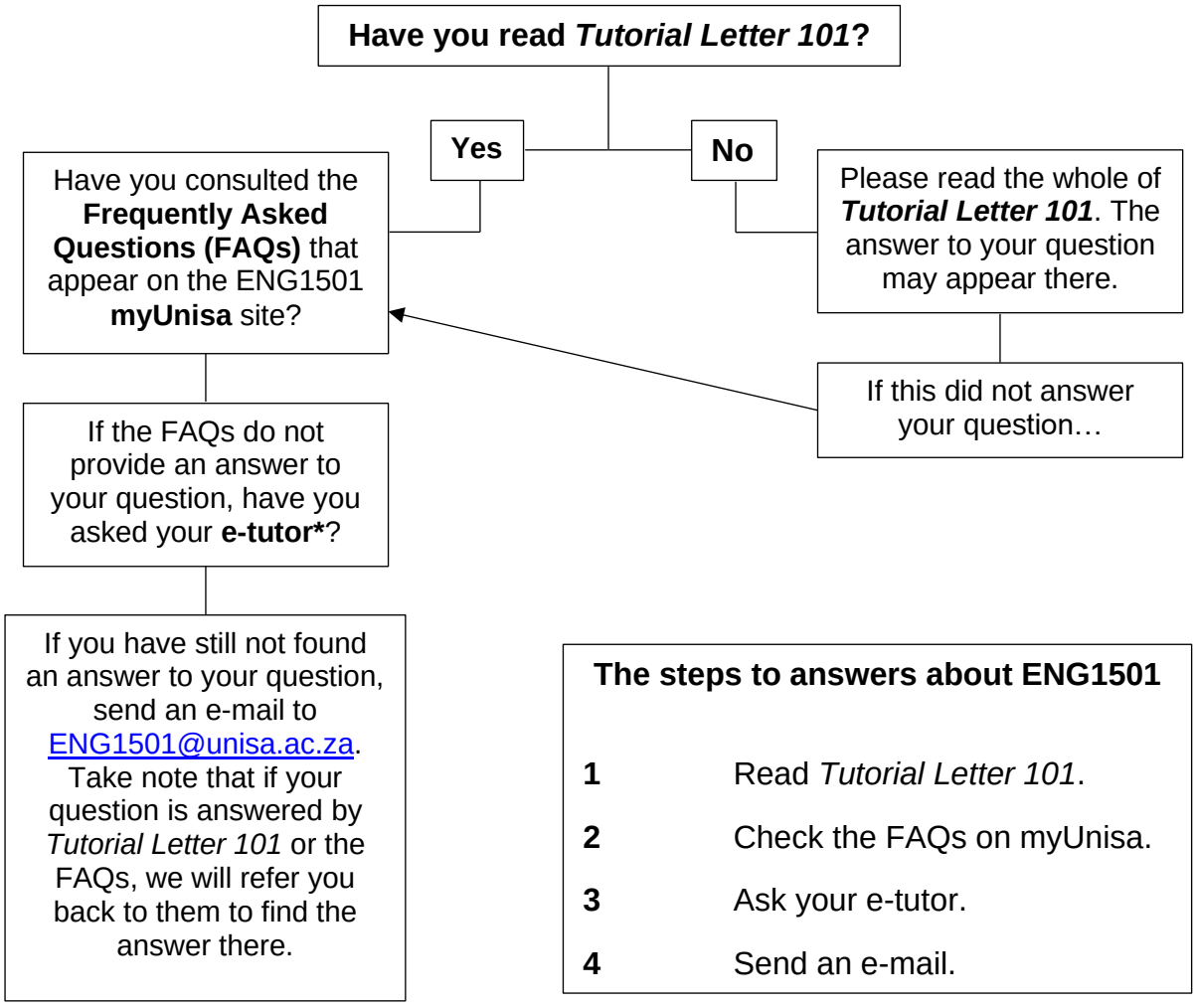
3.1 Lecturers

Please note: To streamline queries and ensure that students are assisted as soon as possible, we have a dedicated e-mail address for this module. We appeal to students to use this address for ALL student queries related to this module. Using this e-mail address will ensure that your query is sent to the person who can best attend to it as soon as possible.

The dedicated e-mail address for this module is: ENG1501@unisa.ac.za

3.2 Where do I address my questions?

Answer the questions in the boxes below and follow the route to finding an answer.



The steps to answers about ENG1501

1	Read *Tutorial Letter 101*.
2	Check the FAQs on myUnisa.
3	Ask your e-tutor.
4	Send an e-mail.

***You can find your e-tutor by following the instructions in the 'How to find my e-tutor site' guide that appears under the Additional Resources on the ENG1501 *myUnisa* site.

4 RESOURCES

4.1 Prescribed book(s)

Mohlele, Nthikeng. 2013. *Small Things*. Johannesburg: Jacana.

A selection of poems and short stories will be made available to you as e-reserves on the library website. See the section below on how to access this material. You are encouraged to work through these as soon as possible alongside *Tutorial Letter 501*.

4.2 Recommended book(s)

We recommend that students purchase a good dictionary, such as the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.

4.3 Electronic reserves (e-reserves)

The poems and short stories you are expected to study are available as e-reserves on the library website. E-reserves can be downloaded from the library catalogue. More information is available at:

http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request

4.4 Library services and resources information

The Unisa Library offers a range of information services and resources:

- for brief information go to: https://www.unisa.ac.za/library/libatglance
- for more detailed Library information, go to: http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library
- for research support and services (e.g. Personal Librarians and literature search services), go to: http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Library/Library-services/Research-support

The Library has created numerous Library guides: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za

Recommended guides:

- request and find library material/download recommended material: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request
- postgraduate information services: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad
- finding and using library resources and tools: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_skills
- Frequently asked questions about the Library: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask
- Services to students living with disabilities: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/disability

Important contact information:

- https://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask - Ask a Librarian
- Lib-help@unisa.ac.za - technical problems accessing library online services
- Library-enquiries@unisa.ac.za - general library related queries
- Library-fines@unisa.ac.za - for queries related to library fines and payments

As a student of English Studies, you should also familiarise yourself with the library guide created especially for students in this department: http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/english_studies. Here you will find information about books, articles, referencing, as well as research support.

5 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The *Study @ Unisa* brochure is available on myUnisa: www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies

This brochure has all the tips and information you need to succeed at distance learning and, specifically, at Unisa.

6 STUDY PLAN

6.1 Your learning resources, e-tutor and activity journal

There are a number of learning resources that you should utilise while studying for this module. Your study material, e-tutorials and activity journal together form your overall study plan for the module.

The following resources will be available on *myUnisa* under Official Study Material.

- *Tutorial Letter 101* (this letter)
- *Tutorial Letter 501* (the Study Guide)
- *Tutorial Letter 102* (which will be available on *myUnisa* in due course)
- *Tutorial Letters 201, 202 and 203* (these are feedback tutorial letters that will be released after the due date for each assignment)

Additional guides on how to find the e-reserves and how to find your e-tutor site are also available on myUnisa under Additional Resources.

Each student in this course will be assigned an **e-tutor**, who will offer tutorial support throughout the year on *myUnisa*. Your regular participation in your e-tutor's weekly tutorial activities for the duration of the year is central to your success in this module. Your e-tutor's tutorials are considered to be the structured study plan for this module. For more information on how to access your e-tutor, you can consult the 'How to find my e-tutor site' guide under the Additional Resources on *myUnisa*. While your e-tutor will support you with a number of activities that will help you progress through the module content, remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that you dedicate enough focused study time to this module. Note that all students will be assigned to their e-tutor group in the weeks following the closing of registrations.

In this module, it is also very important that you keep an **activity journal**. Your activity journal can be a physical notebook, in which you write by hand, or it can be a document on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer. All the activities that you do for this module (refer to the Study Guide), as well as your planning for you assignments, should be collected in this activity journal. This will help you keep track of your learning progress, and it will also be useful when you revise the module content in preparation for the examination. Your activity journal is a very important learning instrument that will help you to reflect on your learning as you go along.

REMEMBER: When seeking assistance from your lecturers, we will ask to see sections of your activity journal. This is so that we can identify which parts of the module content you might find challenging. Additionally, this helps us to know how best to focus our feedback to you.

7 PRACTICAL WORK

There is no practical work component for this module.

8 ASSESSMENT

8.1 Assessment criteria

Tutorial Letter 102 provides you with detailed information on how each of your assignments will be assessed. Work through this document carefully before beginning your assignment preparation.

8.2 Assessment plan

Assignments are an integral part of the learning material for this module. As you complete each assignment, study the prescribed texts, consult other resources, discuss the work with fellow students or e-tutors or do research, you are actively engaged in learning.

Looking at the assessment criteria provided for each assignment will help you to understand more clearly what is required of you. In some cases, additional assessments might be available on the *myUnisa* site or the e-tutor site for your module.

For students attending tutorial sessions, tutors may also set additional tasks and give feedback in class.

8.3 Assignment numbers

8.3.1 General assignment numbers

Assignments are numbered consecutively per year module, starting from 01. There are three assignments for this module: Assignment 01, Assignment 02 and Assignment 03.

You must submit ALL THREE assignments.

8.3.2 Unique assignment numbers

Assignment 01: 650089
Assignment 02: 544126
Assignment 03: 648353

8.4 Assignment due dates

Assignment 01: 12 April 2021
Assignment 02: 4 June 2021
Assignment 03: 2 August 2021

8.5 Submission of assignments

You may submit written assignments either by post or electronically via *myUnisa*.

Assignments **may not be submitted by fax or e-mail**. For detailed information and requirements as far as assignments are concerned, see the brochure *Study @ Unisa*. If you are posting your assignment, use the envelope provided.

To submit an assignment via *myUnisa*:

- Go to *myUnisa*
- Log in using your student number and password
- Select the module
- Click on assignments in the left-hand menu
- Click on the assignment number you want to submit
- Follow the instructions on the screen
- **N.B.** Double check that you have submitted the correct assignment for the correct module.

If you are submitting your assignments electronically via *myUnisa*, please make sure that you use ONE of the following file formats:

- PDF (a .pdf file)
- MS Word (a .doc or .docx file)

This will enable your marker to comment on your assignment easily. Other file formats will not be accepted. Please be sure that you do NOT submit a read-only version of your assignment, as this will result in markers not being able to assess your work electronically.

8.6 The assignments

ASSIGNMENT 01: Poetry

Compulsory for examination admission

'Johannesburg' – Lesego Rampolokeng

Due date: 12 April 2021

Unique number: 650089

Read the poem 'Johannesburg' by Lesego Rampolokeng (p. 111 of *Voices of this Land*, available as an e-reserve) before answering the questions that follow.

You must answer in **full sentences**, and you should support your answers by quoting from the poem.

Note: You will notice that each question includes a mark allocation. This is to indicate how much you should write to support your answer. One mark represents one main point or reason. If a question counts four marks, that means that you will need to supply four points or reasons.

1. Refer to stanza 1.

1.1 Johannesburg's nickname is 'the city of gold'. What does the speaker mean when he refers to the gold as 'judas' (line 2)? (1)

1.2 How do lines 3-4 support your answer in 1.1? (1)

2. Refer to stanzas 2 and 3.

2.1 Discuss the imagery in stanza 2 by identifying at least one metaphor and explaining what it means. (2)

- One mark for correctly identifying one metaphor (explaining what is being compared to what) ✓
- One mark for correctly explaining how the metaphor contributes to the meaning of the stanza ✓

2.2 Refer to lines 15-16. Identify an image in these lines and explain what is being compared to what. What does this image mean? (2)

- One mark for correctly quoting an image from these lines and explaining what is compared to what ✓
- One mark for explaining how the image contributes to the meaning of the stanza ✓

2.3 Comment on the effect of the images in stanzas 2 and 3 on the meaning of the poem as a whole. (2)

- One mark for linking the images discussed in 2.1 and 2.2 to others in the poem ✓
- One mark for commenting on the imagery used in the poem overall ✓

3. Find two examples of the poet's use of alliteration or assonance, and quote them in your answer. For each quotation, underline the repeated sections. Then, explain what the sound device is, and what its function may be. (3)

- One mark for correct examples with relevant sections underlined ✓
- One mark for identifying the correct poetic device in the examples given ✓
- One mark for correctly explaining its function ✓

4. This poem uses an irregular rhyme scheme to create rhythm, much like spoken word or rap music. How does the poet create this rhythm in the poem? Identify at least one device used, explain how it works, and give examples from the poem to support your answer. Note: you are not allowed to use the same device or example discussed in Question 3. (3)

- One mark for identifying a sound device used in the poem ✓
- One mark for explaining how that sound device works (definition) ✓
- One mark for quoting a correct example of the device identified and underlining the relevant section ✓

5. What is the theme of this poem? Give a reason for your answer. (2)

- One mark for correct theme ✓
- One mark for a reason that supports the identified theme ✓

6. Reread your notes on 'diction' in your activity journal. Comment on the poet's use of diction in this poem. How does the poet's use of diction contribute to the meaning of the poem? (3)

- One mark for a description of the poet's use of diction ✓
- One mark for relevant examples from the poem to support the description of diction provided ✓
- One mark for linking the type of diction to the meaning of the poem ✓

7. Give at least two adjectives (descriptive words) of your own to describe the tone of the poem, and provide quotations from the poem to support your answers. Be specific: happy/sad or synonyms of happy/sad are not acceptable answers. (4)

- One mark for each adjective that correctly describes the tone of the poem, maximum two ✓✓
- One mark for each quotation that supports the descriptive word, maximum two ✓✓

8. Read the poem 'City Johannesburg' by Mongane Wally Serote (available as an e-reserve). This poem and 'Johannesburg' by Lesego Rampolokeng are about the same place, and have similar themes. Discuss the similarities between these poems by providing quotations and/or paraphrases from both. (2)

- One mark for correctly identifying the theme that both poems share ✓
- One mark for explaining it correctly with quotations/paraphrases from both poems ✓

Sub-total: 25 marks

Use of language, organisation, and overall structure of assignment: 25 marks

Total: 50

For a detailed breakdown of the rubric used for assessment, please consult *Tutorial Letter 102*. For information about correct quoting and referencing, consult Unit 1 of *Tutorial Letter 501*.

Warning!

Using ideas and facts from other people, books or web pages without saying where they come from is stealing those ideas and facts. It is called plagiarism and it is a serious crime.

ASSIGNMENT 02: Short stories

'Man Lands on the Moon' by Sindiwe Magona

Due date: 4 June 2021

Unique number: 544126

In order to answer this question, you need to read 'Man Lands on the Moon' by Sindiwe Magona (available as an e-reserve on the Library website). Look at *Tutorial Letter 501* for a reminder of the reading strategies you should employ when reading a short story.

Remember to use a dictionary to look up the definitions of any unfamiliar words in the short story and in the assignment question.

This assignment comprises one main question or topic which you will address by responding to the sub-questions below. **Ensure that each answer adheres to the following guidelines:** The answer should

- be written as a paragraph of between ten and fifteen lines
- begin with a topic sentence that reflects the main topic of the paragraph
- discuss the topic by quoting evidence from the short story (these quotations should be incorporated into grammatically complete and coherent sentences)
- explain how each of your quotes supports your argument
- employ correct referencing techniques and make use of appropriate academic conventions
- end with a sentence which summarises and reflects on the significance of what you have argued in relation to the main topic.

Refer to *Tutorial Letter 501* for a reminder of topic sentences, paragraphing, argumentation and quote incorporation.

Question

In 'Man Lands on the Moon', the different beliefs of three generation of women create the main tension in the story. Use the questions below as prompts to argue whether or not you agree with this statement.

Remember to use the literary element mentioned in each question to explore the main topic.

To address the main question, write a paragraph in response to each of the following sub-questions:

1. Discuss the type of narration used in this story, and explain why you think the narrative style is effective in emphasizing the story's meaning. (10)
2. The different set of beliefs of Makhulu Mamkwayi and her mother is central to the main conflict in the story. Write a paragraph in which you discuss the conflict and how it is resolved. (10)
3. Does the story's setting contribute to events in the story? Write a paragraph in which you discuss the story's setting and how it may influence events in the story. (10)
4. Despite the conflict in the story, this short story can be seen as a celebration of the power of story-telling. Makhulu Mamkwayi's character is central to this. Write a paragraph in which you discuss her character and, in particular, why she is such a gifted story-teller. (10)
5. It is only at the end of the story that the title's significance is revealed. Write a paragraph in which you explain the irony of the story's title. (10)

Sub-total: 50 marks

Use of language, organisation, and overall structure of assignment: 50 marks

Total: 100

For a detailed breakdown of the rubric used for assessment, please consult *Tutorial Letter 102*. For information about correct quoting and referencing, consult Unit 1 of *Tutorial Letter 501*.

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ASSIGNMENT 03: The novel

Small Things by Nthikeng Mohlele

Due date: 2 August 2021

Unique number: 648353

In *Small Things*, the main character has a number of relationships with other characters that give us some insight into these figures. In other words, it is through the depiction of these relationships in the narration that we as readers can come to understand various aspects of the characters and their personalities. One of the most important relationships in the novel is between the main character and Desiree. It is in this relationship that we can often trace elements of one of the major themes in the novel: love.

Using the extract detailed below as a starting point, write an essay in which you discuss the changing nature of the relationship between the main character and Desiree. Focus especially on aspects of narrative perspective and characterisation.

The extract you are expected to use begins on p. 46 of the novel with the words, “I think: there are many kinds of love…” The extract ends on p. 47 with the words, “Her mind toils with estimations, discoveries and protests known only to herself” (Mohlele, 2013:46-47).

Before you start writing your essay, you should:

1. Revise the sections on ‘Character’ and ‘Narrative perspective’ in Units 3 and 4 of *Tutorial Letter 501*, paying special attention to the discussion on ‘The intersection of character and narration’.
2. Revise the section on ‘Theme’ in Unit 4 of *Tutorial Letter 501*.
3. Perform a close reading of the extract above, paying careful attention to diction. Identify how the theme of love is explored in the extract and consider how this is linked to the narrator’s perspective on Desiree. Explain how this influences the way in which we as readers see Desiree as a character.
4. Plan your essay, following the steps in the section on ‘How to Write about a Novel’ in Unit 4 of *Tutorial Letter 501*.

Remember that your essay should have:

- An introductory paragraph, which introduces your essay topic and explains how the rest of your essay will be structured. Your introduction should restate the essay question in your own words and should state what you will discuss.
- A body of 3-5 paragraphs, in which you develop your argument. The body of your essay should do three things:
    - it should explain the narrative perspective in the novel;
    - it should explain how the narrative perspective influences the way in which we as readers see the characters; and
    - it should consider how the theme of love is explored through narrative perspective and characterisation.
- Remember that for each point that you make, you should refer to relevant sections of the extract or text to support your argument.
- A concluding paragraph, in which you sum up the main argument that you have made in your essay.

Content and critical discussion: 50 marks

Use of language, organisation, and overall structure of assignment: 50 marks

Total: 100

For a detailed breakdown of the rubric used for assessment, please consult *Tutorial Letter 102*. For information about correct quoting and referencing, consult Unit 1 of *Tutorial Letter 501*.

Warning!

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8.7 Other assessment methods

None.

8.8 The examination

Examination admission

It is compulsory to submit Assignment 01 by 12 April 2021. This obligation is a university requirement to prove that you are an 'active student'. If you do not submit this assignment, you will NOT be allowed to write the examination.

You must also submit Assignment 02 and Assignment 03 by their respective due dates.

Assignment marks will count towards your final mark. Thus for this module, your assignments will count as 35% of the final mark, and the remaining 65% will reflect your performance in the examination. This means that there is a strong incentive for you to submit all three assignments.

Examination period

This module is offered in a year period of thirty weeks. This means that if you are registered for 2021, you will write the examination in October/November 2021. During the year, the Examination Administration Division will provide you with information regarding the examination in general, including examination venues, examination dates and examination times.

Examination paper

This module has a TWO-HOUR examination.

Previous examination papers

A previous examination paper will be available on *myUnisa*.

Information on the examination

To help you prepare for the examination, a tutorial letter will be sent to you and posted on *myUnisa* under Official Study Material. This will explain the format of the examination paper and set out clearly what material you have to study for examination purposes. For general information and requirements as far as examinations are concerned, see the brochure *Study @ Unisa*, which you received with your study material.

9 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We advise you to consult the FAQ section on myUnisa regularly as it is a useful resource which we update frequently to reflect any issues that might arise over the course of the year.

I have not yet received my study material. What can I do?

If you have not yet received your study material, you can download digital copies from *myUnisa* under the Official Study Material tab. You can also contact despatch@unisa.ac.za to enquire about your study material packs that are delivered via post or courier.

I found a website that explains the poem/short story/novel. Can I use it to answer my assignment questions?

Note that we do not expect you to make use of secondary sources at first year level. In fact, we encourage you to rely on your own observations, made by studying the language in your prescribed texts closely. However, if you want to use other people's ideas in your assignments, you need to know how to give credit to your sources. Using ideas and facts from other people, books or web pages without saying where they come from is stealing those ideas and facts. It is

called plagiarism and it is a serious crime. Please consult the section titled 'Using secondary sources in your assignments' in *Tutorial Letter 501* to learn more about correct referencing.

A friend wants to copy the answers to my assignment. Is this allowed?

No. You are not allowed to share your work with your friends before the assignments have been submitted to the university. Copying from others constitutes plagiarism. If you are found guilty of plagiarism, you will be penalised.

How can I submit my assignments?

You can submit your assignments in one of the following ways:

- Uploading the assignment onto *myUnisa* (the safest and most secure way)
- Posting your assignment to the university (see the *Study @ Unisa* brochure for more information)
- Dropping off your assignment at one of the special submission boxes on any of Unisa's campuses.

Please note that you may NOT submit your assignment in more than one way. If you post your assignment, do not also submit an online copy. If you submit an online copy, do not submit another assignment via the post.

How do I find my e-tutor on myUnisa?

Students have been assigned to e-tutors. Consult the 'How to find your e-tutor site guide' available under Additional Resources for step-by-step instructions on finding your e-tutor. If you have tried the steps above, and cannot seem to find your e-tutor, please send an e-mail in this regard to ENG1501@unisa.ac.za. Remember to include your name, surname, and student number.

For any other queries, remember that the *Study @ Unisa* brochure contains an A−Z guide of frequently asked questions and the most relevant study information.

10 SOURCES CONSULTED

Chapman, M. (ed.) 2002. *The New Century of South African Poetry*. Johannesburg: AD Donker.

Magona, S. & Müller, P. (eds.) 2006. *Twist: Short Stories Inspired by Tabloid Headlines.* Cape Town: Oshun Books.

Mohlele, N. 2013. *Small Things*. Johannesburg: Jacana.

11 IN CLOSING

We hope that you will enjoy this module and we wish you every success in your studies.

Best wishes

The ENG1501 Teaching Team

Although every effort has been made to trace the copyright holders, this has not always been possible. Should any infringement have occurred, the publisher apologises and undertakes to amend the omission in the event of a reprint.

12 DECLARATION REGARDING PLAGIARISM

DECLARATION REGARDING PLAGIARISM

DECLARATION

Name and student number: …….

Assignment topic: …….

I declare that this assignment is my own original work. Where secondary material has been used (either from a printed source or from the Internet), this has been carefully acknowledged and referenced in accordance with departmental requirements. I understand what plagiarism is and am aware of the department's policy in this regard. I have not allowed anyone else to borrow or copy my work.

Signature: …….

Date: …….

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Signature: …….

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