



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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NAMIBIA

FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

SEMESTER 1: (2023)

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE 1A (ILT511S)

ASSIGNMENT 1

Dear students

Here follows a very important feedback letter to your first assignment for 2023 in ILT.

Please pay careful attention to the information being shared so that you do not repeat the mistakes you made in other assignments.

Many students do not understand that they have to present their OWN work in an assignment and that copying from sources and the internet is considered an academic crime. The punishment for such an offence is often HARSH !

What is plagiarism?

Academic Integrity and why Plagiarism is wrong

Academic integrity stands on five pillars, namely:

- Honesty;
- Trust;
- Fairness;
- Respect;
- Responsibility

When a student commits plagiarism, whether by accident or on purpose, these pillars are destroyed.

What is Plagiarism?

- Submitting someone else's work as your own
- Using the source too closely when paraphrasing
- Hiring someone to write your paper

- Building on someone's ideas without citation
- Copying from another source without citation (deliberately or by accident)
- Leaving out quotation marks when quoting someone's words

How can Plagiarism be avoided?

- To be on the safe side, always make it clear where the information comes from
- Learn how to properly cite sources. At NUST we use the APA system. You can get a copy at the library on the APA referencing system or you can check how it works on Google.
- Do not just copy
- Use a range of sources
- Use quotation marks
- Keep good quality notes
- Review, review, review

What are the consequences of Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is probably the worst sin you can commit in the academic world. At every education and research organization worldwide, plagiarism is viewed and dealt with very seriously.

NUST has a policy on Student Plagiarism. This policy states in detail what the consequences of plagiarism are when caught. This can range from loss of marks and warnings for accidental plagiarism, all the way to appearing in front of Student Disciplinary Committees and even expulsion from the institute for serious incidents. Added to expulsion from NUST, information is sent to the Registrars at regional universities who could block expelled students from ever enrolling at university again, anywhere.

Here is an example of what NUST expects from students. This is attached to all course outlines for full time as well as part-time students and students also sign to acknowledge that they have read the page.

Although there is no form like this for Distance (COLL) students, the same policy applies. The University yearbook and other forms of official documentation also make this clear.

All staff and students of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) , upon signing their employment contracts and registration forms, commit themselves to abide by the policies and rules of the institution. The core activity of NUST is learning and in this respect academic honesty and integrity is very important to ensure that learning is valid, reliable and credible.

NUST therefore does not condone any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating on tests and assessments, amongst other such practices. NUST requires students to always do their own assignments and to produce their own academic work, unless given a group assignment.

Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Using the ideas, words, works or inventions of someone else as if it is your own work.
- Using the direct words of someone else without quotation marks, even if it is referenced.
- Copying from writings (books, articles, webpages, other students' assignments, etc.), published or unpublished, without referencing.
- Syndication of a piece of work, all or part of an assignment, by a group of students, unless the assignment was a legitimate group assignment.
- The borrowing and use of another person's assignment, with or without their knowledge or permission.
- Infringing copyright, including documents copied or cut and pasted from the internet.
- Asking someone else to prepare an assignment for you or to write or sit an assessment for you, whether this is against payment or not.
- Re-submitting work done already for another course or programme as new work, so-called self-plagiarism.
- Bringing notes into an examination or test venue, regardless of whether the notes were used to copy or not.
- Receiving any outside assistance in any form or shape during an examination or test.

All forms of academic dishonesty are viewed as misconduct under the NUST Student Rules and Regulations. Students who make themselves guilty of academic dishonesty will be brought before a Disciplinary Committee and may be suspended from studying for a certain time or may be expelled. All students who are found guilty of academic dishonesty shall have an appropriate endorsement on their academic record, which will never be erased.

After having read this students then submit a form called ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY STUDENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY STUDENT:

(To be completed by all students enrolled for the course, detached from the course outline and kept on record in the department)

I, (Name), _____ (Student number) _____, hereby acknowledge that I have received this course outline for

_____ and that I have familiarized myself with its content, in particular the statement about academic honesty and integrity. I agree to abide by the policies and arrangements spelt out in this course outline.

Signature of student

Date

The increased use of technology in education has greatly increased the incidences of plagiarism. Fortunately, technology is increasingly also providing tools for the detection of plagiarism. NUST is determined to get rid of plagiarism, and employs software like *Turnitin*.

Turnitin is software installed on the e-learning platform that checks work submitted by students for incidences of potential plagiarism, and awards a score which is visible to the lecturers. It does this by being able to scan vast amounts of articles and books, web sites, and is able to share information with other universities that are also using turnitin. This software is employed by thousands of universities worldwide, and all assignments submitted are recorded.

Is Plagiarism worth the risk?

Being caught for committing plagiarism is not a case of “if”, but “when”. When someone commits plagiarism, they not only cheat the institution, but also themselves out of a decent education. When caught these offenders often face a future that is ruined, and dreams destroyed.

NUST wants to qualify students that are possessed of integrity. They should know right from wrong, and be able to police themselves. Beyond integrity, and even beyond NUST policy, plagiarism is against the law of Namibia. When someone consciously commits plagiarism, they break the law.

(Adapted from notes by Mr **Stephen Visagie**, Faculty Librarian, Namibia University Of Science And Technology)

Now to the feedback on the questions!

QUESTION 1 (35 MARKS)

In a well-considered essay of 400-450 words comment on the following statement, using ample textual references to support your answer:

Refer to numerous instances in Ndebele's short story *Uncle* to illustrate the lessons the narrator's uncle teaches him.

Most students did fairly well in this question but there were 2 main issues with their answers. 1) Many students simply copied information from a source they found on the internet and then they also did not acknowledge the source IN TEXT.

2) Many students missed the main lessons the narrator was taught and some even made point form lists of the less relevant lessons.

A thorough reading of the story will show that although the uncle "teaches" the boy many bad lessons (he actually just sets a bad example at times like philandering ,drinking too much and being involved with a school girl) his overall influence is positive.

Remember that the author ,Ndebele, is NOT the narrator in Uncle. The author wrote the stories in the book but in all the stories the narrator is not the narrator.

Remember to always use essay format when answering questions-bullet points and short sentences are NOT allowed

I am not going to mention all the lessons but there are some MAIN lessons which were evident:

- The narrator was taught to be proud of his heritage/roots. This lesson he learns from his uncle as well as his uncle's friend Brother Mandla (lesson of the hunchback)

- How to fight using one's brains instead of muscle and how over confidence can lead to one's defeat (the fight against Nzule)
- Choose which battles to fight and which to leave (after the bees at the church where the uncle lets his "mshana" and his sister get to safety in a taxi and "leaves" the boy who caused the problem with the bees to be beaten for his misbehavior)
- How to give to a place and not just see what a place can give you (he unites the township with his music in the last 2 pages of the story)

Some students seem to have read another story and included strange facts in the essay. Some had obviously not read the story at all.

QUESTION 2 (35 MARKS)

Discuss the concepts "*hubris*" and "*hamartia*" in relation to Oedipus' character. Use references from the text to support your argument.

Here many student did quite well in the question. The problem in most answers, however, was that most students did not clearly show the effect of the two Greek terms "*hubris*" and "*hamartia*" in relation to Oedipus' character.

Hubris is a way of behaving and is one's "ego". Oedipus is full of himself and he is overconfident. He believes he is the "father" of the citizens of Thebes and they are his "children". He puts himself above the gods (and will be punished for it!)

He solved the riddle of the Sphynx and saved Thebes. He will find Laius' murderer.

Hamartia is a tragic flaw in the protagonists character and is obviously linked to hubris. Oedipus is proud and arrogant. Even before he becomes king he is doomed due to this.

These aspects needed to be elaborated on. Hubris causes Oedipus to get angry with Creon and Tiresias and cause them to become his enemies due to his false accusations.

Hamartia causes his fall because he is proud and arrogant. He insists on finding the murderer of Laius and does not listen to the warnings of Tiresias and his wife Jocasta. He insists on finding the answer. This is a good and honest trait ,yet leads to his downfall. If he had been more humble he could have averted his fate.(not entirely true because of the theme of “predestination”, but that falls outside the scope of your essay’s discussion and is not related to the topic you had to write on)

Whenever you refer to quotes/references to a play, you use line references NOT page references. “.....” (A1 I 120)

I hope this has helped you with approaching your following assignments. Please remember, for the rest of your journey into the study of English literature, that you may NEVER commit plagiarism. You now know what it is, and how to avoid it.

The Turnitin programme shows you what you have copied. Paraphrase sections of work you use from sources. This means re-writing it in YOUR OWN words. Do not simply replace every second word from the original piece! When you have paraphrased, remember the idea is not your own, so you still need to acknowledge the source IN THE TEXT as well as in your reference list.

Please make some time and Google APA referencing, how to reference in a text as well as how to write a reference list (Bibliography).

These are very important skills you need to have mastered by your second year of studies.

Always remember, lecturers are trying to assess YOUR understanding of a text, not another person's ideas on the internet or elsewhere. References should be an aid to enhance your own inputs. They are not a crutch!

Good luck with your future assignments

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