

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Kateřina Fačkovcová

Title: Nature, Weather and Seasons in Thomas Hardy's Essex Novels

Length: 26

Text Length: 29

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the examined issue. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The introduction does not prepare us for the exploration to come. It is merely a statement of the organization of the text.
2. The thesis shows the author's appropriate knowledge of the subject matter through the background/review of literature. The author presents information from a variety of quality electronic and print sources. Sources are relevant, balanced and include critical readings relating to the thesis or problem. Primary sources are included (if appropriate).	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The author carefully analyzed the information collected and drew appropriate and inventive conclusions supported by evidence. Ideas are richly supported with accurate details that develop the main point. The author's voice is evident.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The author's voice is not evident but often seems to borrow from her sources. This is really a problem on page 16 where the author adopts much of the language of her source without quotations marks. Indeed there are long paragraphs of information where I am unsure where the information came from. The author seems to move over the surface of geography.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	It is mostly summary.
5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	It is only two paragraphs long and makes little effort to go beyond summary.
6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient	The text is out of proportion. For such a short thesis the author spends way too long talking about the Victorian age in general. Five pages is a lot when the dp

author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Very deficient	is only 26 pages long. There are many mistakes with articles and prepositions which is not so terrible, but the irregular punctuation of titles and irregular capitalization is most distracting. The Work Cited page also suffers many irregularities.
7. The language use is precise. The student makes proficient use of language in a way that is appropriate for the discipline and/or genre in which the student is writing.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, I was disturbed when the author used language out of her own idiom and clearly from external texts without quotation or attribution.
8. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The thesis is short I am not sure we can pass it because of this shortcoming alone. Also the use of block form quotations is out of format, and used many times instead of regular quotations. Several endnotes and pages numbers seems to be missing.

Final Comments & Questions

The thesis is short and does not meet the page requirement. There are problems with proportion and control over the information being reported. I have mentioned above many formal elements which are distracting, the worst being quotations as they cause confusion where the author's ideas begin and end verses her sources. Also, I am really shocked that the author did not bother to discuss the climax of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* which takes place at Stonehenge. Certainly this pre-Christian, pagan monument must be significant to the question of nature verses culture in Hardy's work.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 18.08.2014

Signature: