

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Drahuše Valentová
 Title: The Poetry of Reconciliation
 Length: 34
 Text Length: 31

<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	There are a few problems with awkward syntax, as well as prepositions and articles. The introduction seems a bit general in nature and does not have a clear argument.
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	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Again, I am not sure the diploma is argumentative enough in nature.
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	
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 author uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	Transitions are sometimes a bit of a problem as well as specificity of language.

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	As mentioned before in the intro, there are some problems with the precision of the prose.
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 capitalization of the References pages is imperfect.

Final Comments & Questions

The author can be proud of this work. Thematically the thesis does important work, illustrating the reconciliation of the mind/body division in Whitman's poetry and well as perhaps the split between East and West. Biography and verse are considered side by side in order to paint a vivid and captivating portrait of America's most original poet. There are minor imperfections throughout the work that leaves the reader to strain for clarity. For instance when the author writes in the conclusion "Alfred Lord Tennyson who was Whitman's friend," one wonders as to the nature of this friendship. An actual friendship? I was not aware that Tennyson had visited American or Whitman England? Or did the author mean an epistolary friendship, or some other kind of relationship? There are countless examples of this kind of lack of specify, or perhaps an inability for the author of the diploma to predict the ways in which her prose could be misread. Otherwise, I think this thesis shows tremendous effort and dedication.

Suggested mark 1/2.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 12.05.2014

Signature:

