

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Tomáš Vyhnanek

Title: Nature, African American Music of the Southern United States in the 20th Century—Blues and Jazz

Length: 22

Text Length: 23

<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	
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	
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	

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	
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	

Final Comments & Questions

The student is to be commended for his knowledge and hard work. As I have mentioned in previous consultations, I believe the thesis lacks argumentation. Rather than a thesis that makes an assertion concerning the place/contribution of African American music to US or even global culture, the thesis reads more like an encyclopedia entry and thus is more descriptive in nature. I had imagined the closing pages would show the way African American music had influenced white culture and or other European/Asian cultures and thus explain the way black music transcend its origins . This happened with the Afro-Cuban Jazz section ever so briefly. I am very surprised Elvis Presley and rock and roll was never mentioned. The conclusion is more of a summation rather than a revelation of something new. The ending of the thesis seemed to be a list of important but disparate musicians rather than a conclusion of a unified argument. Having said that, the thesis is well researched, and well written and despite a few flaws in the References page the format is professionally handled. There does seem to be a problem with margins and type point that has cause the diploma to be so short in terms of page length.

The thesis rests on the border between a 1/2 . The performance at the defense will be important to the final grade.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 8.06.2017

Signature:

