

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: **Tomáš Vyhňálek**

Title: *African American music of the southern United States in the 20th century – blues and jazz*

Length: 24 pages

Text Length: 22 pages

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
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

This work provides a useful overview of the topic from both a historical and cultural perspective, drawing on a variety of sources, including two Czech originals dating back to the late 1940s and 1950s. Just in passing, this raises the side issue of why nothing more of relevance has appeared in Czech in the intervening years – other than, possibly, translations of English originals.

The work is well researched, logically organised and neatly presented. One especially appreciates how the author has tried to incorporate an appropriate selection of different citation methods into his work; his use of paraphrase is also considerably smoother than that frequently encountered in academic writing at this level.

Two specific questions:

1. The author states in the Introduction that *The music of African people [...] is more capable of further development than music of people from other places in the world*. There is no citation for this, so one must assume it is the author's own assertion. Then, however, one has to ask: Where is the evidence for such a claim?
2. One can accept maybe that white people could never quite master the technique of the Delta blues songs (p. 10) but a further implication (p. 11) seems to be that many African Americans couldn't master it either. The author briefly explains the specifics of the genre but it still remains unclear as to why only those from the Mississippi Delta were privy to its innermost secrets. Is there, in fact, any explanation for this?

Recommended grade: **výborně**

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 7th June 2016

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AT', written over the 'Signature:' label.