

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: *Anna Šimicová*

Title: Nature, Jane Austen's Role in Contemporary Society

Length: 37

Text Length: 34

<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 <b>Very good</b> 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).	<b>Outstanding</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding <b>Very good</b> 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> 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 <b>Very good</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

The student is to be congratulated on the depth of her knowledge and hard work. Overall this is an excellent thesis but there are some problems with its conception. Even though this thesis purports to be dedicated to Jane Austen, she doesn't really enter the conversation until page 18. Until then the author gives the reader a rather exhaustive survey of feminist history and theory. The title and introduction lead me to believe that the diploma would show me how Austen created the tropes of popular entertainments (novel, films, TV) often consumed today. Rather in the second half of the thesis, we learn how Austen fulfills and illustrates the principles of feminist criticism. Fair enough. This is expertly done, but it seems to me it would have been more interesting to argue that Austen creates the values of contemporary feminist criticism as well as the values of mainstream popular culture, rather than arguing that feminists find Austen valuable because she fits into their vision of the world. I think both positions are correct, but one would require reversing the role of critic and creative writer while the other is not really controversial. To make an even bolder claim, I think it would be equally valid to say Jane Austen is one of the creators of modernity rather than merely an author whose remains can be found reanimated time and time again in countless romances like *Bridget Jones Dairy* and postmodern penny dreadfuls like *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. I am not demeaning these works, as I would have actually enjoyed learning more about the author's opinions of them.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 05.05.2018

Signature:

