

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jan Maglia

Title: Nature, Jonathan Swift: Human Nature in Gulliver's Voyage to Houynhnms

Length: 29

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	Intro seems short and general. What is the thesis exactly, Swift's vision is dystopian rather than utopian. Isn't this common knowledge?
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 author has selected a very difficult text. The heavily ironic/satirical nature of *Gulliver's Travel* makes it hard to understand and even harder to discuss. Thus, context is incredibly important because of the hall of mirrors quality evoked by Swift's fourth chapter concerning the Houyhnhnms, so it would have been helpful if the author had placed chapter 4 as a conclusion and counterpoint to the chapters on "Lilliput," "Brobdingnag," and "La Puta," especially this third chapter where Swift begins his deconstruction of science and reason and their dangers. In addition placing part IV into context with the actual Age of Reason zeitgeist as well as discoveries in the new world would be key. There are only 8 resources listed in the References page which is one less than the resources listed at the front of the dp contract you signed with your director. The References list should be much longer than the contract bibliography. The fact that there was no progress and no innovation in terms of research between signing the contract and the final draft of the diploma is a little shocking.

The author raises many interesting issues, such as the education of women. But as the text is written I cannot interpret whether Swift was a proponent or opponent of the education of women. It would have been helpful for instance if the author had done research to explain whether Swift was indeed a progressive on this issue in real life or whether as a notorious conservative he is mocking the idea. I feel I am left in limbo about many such issues raised by the text. The author too often leaves us stuck inside the text, and we cannot trust Gulliver's opinions for he is probably a misanthropic madman, and we cannot trust the opinions' of the Houyhnhnms as they are probably a projection of Gulliver's madness, a projection as you rightly point out might lead to rationalized genocide. Perhaps providing a context for this type of satire, known as *Juvenalian satire* in which both polemical sides are being held up to ridicule leaving the reader no firm ground on which stand, should have been part of your investigation. It is different than in Parts I and II where there is a more clear sense of right and wrong. The thesis has a rushed feeling and there are many passages that are difficult to read because of syntax. The References page has multiple problems when it comes to the punctuation of titles and distinguishing between books and articles. Still the author seemed to be at his best when he was consulting Orwell who provides the clearest vision as how to read Swift and it was good that the author at least had this source as a guiding light. I suggest a mark of 3.

Supervisor/Reviewer:

Date: 20.08.2018

Signature:

