

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

Thesis Author: **Šimon Mitro**

Title: *Tales of immigration in British films*

Length: 47 pages

Text Length: 31 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 makes a curious impression. Unnecessarily repetitious usage of the first-person pronoun notwithstanding, the first chapter is well written and provides a sound overall perspective of the international situation regarding immigration and refugees (definitions of terms etc). There is also a reminder of former Czech president Václav Klaus's trenchant comments on multiculturalism, which this reader assumed was the prelude to an analysis of immigration primarily in Britain with an additional European dimension for comparative purposes.

Thus the abrupt switch from Europe to South Africa in chapter two is totally unexpected and, to this reader at least, ultimately proves a disappointment. As the author himself states (p. 13), *District 9* is a South African film; to be pedantic, according to Wikipedia it is actually "a co-production of New Zealand, the United States and South Africa" but, either way, it has precious little to do with Britain and suggests the title of the thesis itself is misleading. Another incongruous aspect is the science fiction element, which might not have jarred quite so much if there were no extra-terrestrials involved. As it stands, however, the transition from political reality to pure fantasy results in a mismatch between much of the factual background and what follows as the author's own analysis. Although *District 9* Director Blomkamp is quoted as saying: "In essence, there is no difference except that in my film, we have a group of intergalactic aliens as opposed to illegal aliens" (p. 14), this difference might strike some people as being quite a significant one. As a final footnote to this film, it is worth noting that many Nigerians found it deeply offensive. Presumably this was not the director's aim, but such is the law of unintended consequences.

Children of Men admittedly has rather more relevance to the topic. True, the idea of Britain being the only country to offer any hope to civilisation seems a far-fetched one today, though the film makers at the time could not possibly have known that in 2020 the United Kingdom would have Boris Johnson as its Prime Minister. Again, this is just the prejudice of the reviewer but it does make one wonder whether there is any sense in analysing sci-fi novels and films to death when there are far more bizarre things taking place in our everyday lives which would require serious attention.

The list of references seems slightly sparse when one takes away the film reviews that appeared in national newspapers, so it might be claimed the work lacks a certain academic depth. There is also a problem in the listing as Rafael Woldeab should appear further down as Woldeab, R. On the positive side, the author maintains a high standard of linguistic accuracy throughout the main text, which makes for a smooth read stylistically; the primary problem, as stated above, is a certain lack of coherence in the subject matter itself.

Recommended grade: **velmi dobře**

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 28th August 2020

Signature: