

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Martin Štembera

Title: Portrait of American Ideals in the Works of Arthur Miller

Length: 35pp.

Text Length: 30pp.

| 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 | There are some mistakes in spelling and grammar <i>passim</i> , but the overall standard of the writing is very good. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 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

I have no hesitation in recommending the grade of excellent for this thesis (**výborně**). The high standard is clear from the first chapter in the biographical overview. Usually such passages bear little or no relevance to the work that follows, but here the material has been chosen carefully to connect with the latter criticism of Arthur Miller's works. The author is judicious also in the choice of those works and in his treatment of secondary sources; perhaps there is a little too much dependence on the *Guardian* (I would have thought the *New York Times* would be a better resource). Just two small queries: on p. 4, the author suggests that Enoch Brater thinks Arthur Miller is important for his carpentry skills. Surely something is wrong here. Also, on p. 10, the author says that American Anti-Communism began in 1940, and goes straight to a discussion of McCarthyism. This overlooks the period from 1941 to 1946, when the US considered the USSR an ally.

But these are small issues in such a well written work.

Supervisor/Reviewer: doc. Justin Quinn Ph.D.

Date: 20 July 2012

Signature:

