

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Drahuše Valentová
 Title: The Poetry of Reconciliation
 Length: 34pp
 Text Length: 31pp

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	A fair range of secondary material is on display here; the problem is rather how the student orchestrates this. Mostly it is used to present general knowledge about Whitman, and not to forward an argument. That is, there is no critical engagement.
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	In chapter 1, the author quotes generously from Whitman's prose, but does little to show us why these quotes are integral to her argument. More fundamentally, the thesis provides a kind of overview of Whitman's life and general themes, and insofar as it does this, it does it well. None of the characterizations are inaccurate. But there is no thesis proposed and proven; no argument made. On a small point: on p. 22, the student says that Whitman could not have known about the Sanskrit work <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> , yet works of Indian mysticism were familiar to many in Transcendental circles in the US from at least the 1830s.
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	The first chapter mainly gives a routine biographical overview, followed by an enumeration of some of Whitman's main themes. There is no attempt to justify the biographical account within

		the thesis argument. Homosexuality: it is taken for granted that Whitman was a homosexual, but there are two problems here. First, the term "homosexual" is anachronistic – people were not categorized in this way in antebellum American. Second, there is not sufficient evidence of Whitman's sexual relations with other men.
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	Transitions are for the most part random and follow no thread.
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	Punctuation in long quotes is incorrect.

Final Comments & Questions

Given the criticisms above, I recommend the grade of 3, and look forward to hearing the student's responses.

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

Date: 12 May 2014

Signature:

