

Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Jakub Toman

Title: Americans Roots Music Legacy in the Songs of Bruce Springsteen

Length: 61

Text Length: 38

<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	Never mentions the theme of the road, which turns out to be the central argumentative thesis of the diploma.
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	The conclusion acts as a quick last chapter rather than a traditional conclusion.
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	The punctuation of titles are haphazard through the thesis including the References page.

Final Comments & Questions

The author has much to be proud of in this thesis. The writing is thoughtful and intelligent and one can only admire the passion behind the prose which seems to be inspired by the passion of the diploma's subject Bruce Springsteen. I think the author has proved without a doubt that Springsteen is a suitably important figure in terms of his importance to American culture. His lyrics are of literary merit and it is lamentable that our project cannot include some audio component to compare his songs to their folk and roots legacy. I think the theme of *the road* was very interesting and the thesis could have been more thematically unified around this concept. It is too bad the author did not have more time to develop his ideas. Any writing project is a process of discovery, a kind of journey not unlike that sung about in a Springsteen song. The diploma meanders in the beginning and comes to a rushed and somewhat stark finale. The thesis is like an animal whose head too big for its body and tail is too short. The introduction doesn't quite get to the heart of the thesis, while the conclusion acts as a new chapter and then rushes for closure. Also the text itself could have used a final proofreading especially when it come to the issue of titles. Still my criticism are mostly about proportion rather than content or academic research. These elements are both excellent.

Suggested grade 1.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.
Date: 12.05.14
Signature: 