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

Thesis Author: **Kateřina Brožíková**

Title: *Czech Communities in America*

Length: 28 pages

Text Length: 23 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	See comments overleaf.
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 produced a thesis which is generally strong on facts but rather weaker on analysis. There also seems to be a struggle to achieve a clearly defined focus. This reviewer was slightly disappointed with the section on literature – and all the more so since the first author mentioned, Willa Cather, was not even Czech. Nor, it seems, did Cather's work focus on the Czech community as such: for instance, we are told on p. 16 that the subject of *The Song of the Lark* is a German immigrant; then the last sentence on the same page states that *Cather's observations greatly capture the essence of America at that time*. The next author mentioned (p. 18) is Arnold Lustig, who emigrated to the USA in 1970; however, apart from his physical presence on US soil, his contribution to the Czech community in America remains unclear since his literary output focuses predominantly on the Holocaust. This section ends with a plug for the Czech Literature Online portal, including a mission statement from the site's editor-in-chief, but there is no accompanying analysis to indicate how successful this project is in achieving its aims.

Technically the work is neatly presented, correctly referenced and maintains an impressive standard of language throughout. Content-wise, however, one is left with a sense of missed opportunities, none more so than in the Conclusion, where mention is made of the current paradoxical situation in which there are more possibilities than ever before for learning about one's past and maintaining contact via social media, yet people choose not to avail themselves of these. One wonders (a) why this should be so; and (b) what its long-term implications are for the continuation of a recognisable Czech community in the USA. For future research this seems like a potentially interesting avenue of exploration – one which might allow for rather more informed speculation than vaguely wondering how things will pan out.

Recommended grade: **velmi dobře**

Reviewer: Andrew Tollet

Date: 25th August 2016

Signature: