

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: Ivana Švehlová  
 Title: Spiritual Life of Americans  
 Length: 36  
 Text Length: 30

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 <b>Acceptable</b> Somewhat deficient Very deficient	<i>The author writes a very straightforward introduction that provides readers with an overview of the structure of the thesis.</i>
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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The author shows familiarity with selected issues associated with the topic of religion and spirituality in the American society; however, due to the multifaceted nature of the topic and limited number of pages, the thesis comes across as a simplified presentation of spirituality in the USA. Furthermore, the author fails to connect the different topics addressed in the thesis together. The connection between the three areas – beliefs, movements, famous people - is not very apparent and makes the reader wonder about the author's inclusion of specifically these three areas.</i>  <i>In sum, if the author had had a more narrow focus or clear research goal, the whole thesis would have had a clearer direction and resulted in an apparent outcome which is not currently present.</i>
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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The author does attempt to analyze the presented information in the section "Comparison," but rather than analyzing it with respect to the American society, she presents general and limited opinions about the topics (pp.28-29).</i>
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The author provides a detail account of facts; however, the analytical part does not happen until the very end of the thesis.</i>

5. Conclusion effectively restates the argument. It summarizes the main findings and follows logically from the analysis presented.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>The author describes what is included in each section of the thesis rather than draws conclusions about spirituality in the USA.</i>
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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Acceptable</b> 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 <b>Somewhat deficient</b> Very deficient	<i>Some technicalities have been missed out. For example the formatting of headings of main sections is inconsistent. The pages (e.g. Shrnuti, Appendix) at the end of the thesis are not in the right order.</i>

#### Final Comments & Questions

Ms. Švehlová chose to write about a rather challenging topic. The topic of spirituality in the U.S. is very broad and complex and it is almost impossible to address it successfully in an undergraduate thesis. The way it is presented here results in the thesis coming across as a description of selected topics associated with religion and spirituality rather than a discussion/analysis of spiritual life of Americans. However, I believe that Ms. Švehlová researched the topic carefully and through that process extended her knowledge of spirituality in the American society. It is also my belief that this project positively contributed to Ms. Švehlová's education.

Supervisor: Mgr. Gabriela Klečková, Ph.D.

Date: August 12, 2012

Signature: 