

## Undergraduate Thesis Assessment Rubric

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

Thesis Author: **Michaela Bečvářová**

Title: History in the Novels of Nathaniel Hawthorne

Length: 40

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<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.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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).	<b>Outstanding</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The thesis displays critical thinking and avoids simplistic description or summary of information.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> 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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	I detected one missing endnote and perhaps one spell-check error, and one omitted word. The text read fluidly and the author is in full control at all time. These flaws hardly noticeable.

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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	See above
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.	<b>Outstanding</b> Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

The student is to be congratulated on her efforts. This text could be used as a model for future students. I found particularly valuable the story of the Pynchons and their place in Hawthorne's vision of history. At times I wondered if a more full discussion of Puritan Calvinist theology might not make more clear the issues of original sin at stake in *The Scarlet Letter*, as well as the seeming contradiction of the Puritan work ethic and their constant striving for wealth with the overall New Testament values of poverty and humility, but perhaps this is a personal bias. All and all, this is a work of superior quality.

Supervisor/Reviewer: Brad Vice, Ph.D.

Date: 20.05.2013

Signature:

