Faculty of Arts, Master’s Thesis

Thesis Supervisor’s report

Thesis Title: The Clash of Gayness: Depictions of Homosexuality in “Maurice” and “The Swimming-Pool Library”

Field of Study: FF N-HS AJ [sem 5, cycle 2], PAJ [sem 5, cycle 2]

Department: Department of English and American Studies

Author: Bc. Michal Křiklava

Supervisor: doc. Michael Matthew Kaylor, PhD.

Reviewer: Jeffrey Alan Vanderziel, B.A.

Supervisor’s recommendation for overall mark: B

1. Evaluation of central idea, thesis, focus and purpose: C
2. Evaluation of organization, logic and arrangement: B
3. Evaluation of topic development, support and evidence: B
4. Evaluation of language, style, standard usage, citation and bibliographic standards: A

Comments and/or topics and questions for the thesis defence:
This thesis attempts to trace various Gay dynamics that flourished in the Modernist period and evolved, based on external and other pressures, into the more recent dynamics at play in our contemporary period, all presented here through tracing lines of connection or divergence in the works of E. M. Forster and A. Hollinghurst. The objects of comparison, situated as they are within historical, often legal, contextualization by the student, make the work more than adequate in the particulars. However, the thesis lacks the sort of holistic argument that a reader expects: in short, one never reaches the point of the main point being pointed to—to a single “thesis statement,” as it were. In terms of its academic framing and apparatus, its finesse in handling the prose and other formalities, and its display of close-reading techniques and an understanding of the primary sources, the thesis is very good. It is a solid piece of work that misses only the thread to elegantly display its collection of pearls.