



Faculty of Arts, Master's Thesis

Thesis Reviewer's report

Thesis Title: The Making of an American War Veteran
Field of Study: FF N-FI AJ [sem 5, cyk 2]
Department: Department of English and American Studies
Author: Bc. Jakub Hamari
Supervisor: Jeffrey Alan Smith, M.A., Ph.D.
Reviewer: doc. PhDr. Tomáš Pospíšil, Ph.D.

Reviewer's recommendation for overall mark: D

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

Comments and/or topics and questions for the thesis defence: In his thesis Jakub Hamari set out to analyze five selected veteran memoirs with the intention of capturing how the authors in question - all members of the USMC from WWII, the Vietnam War to the first Iraq War (2003) - capture their personal transformations from an enlisted person, to soldier in the war theater, to the stage of the veteran. Running through the texts and always identifying a similar set of themes - Boot Camp, Family, Religion, Aftermath, Women - Hamari offers the reader a mainly differently arranged summaries of the novels with no further "added value".

The thesis attests well to Mr. Hamari's capacity to sum up longer texts in plain, but generally sound English, as well as to his genuine interest in the UNMC and the American war and veteran experience.

As for his capacity to critically engage the selected works in a process of theoretically sound, informed close reading, where telling parallels would be drawn, some kind of generalizations attempted or unexpected interpretations offered, there is basically nothing to assess. Also, the thesis lacks even a most rudimentary attempt at situating the selected texts in their respective historical, social or literary contexts.