The Political Allegories in John Updike’s Rabbit, Run

Field of Study: FF B-FI AJ [sem 10, cyk 1]  
Department: Department of English and American Studies  
Author: Veronika Táborská  
Supervisor: Mgr. Jan Čapek  
Reviewer: doc. PhDr. Tomáš Pospíšil, Ph.D.

Supervisor’s recommendation for overall mark: B

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

Comments and/or topics and questions for the thesis defence:  
This bachelor thesis displays a reading of John Updike’s Rabbit, Run as a political allegory of the post-WWII situation in America and of the post-WWII international relations in which America played a major role. Overall, the thesis is ambitious and aims for a rather holistic presentation. Although slightly under-developed at times, it is a good bachelor-level thesis in terms of its idea and focus and a promising piece of academic writing due to its strong claims remaining rooted in the primary text and the socio-political realities of the post-WWII era.

The thesis is, unfortunately, generally held back by its more formal aspects. The thesis mostly adheres to an academic style of writing but the style tends to be rough and inconsistent with unusual word usage and formulations breaking its fluidity. In terms of citation and bibliographic standards, the thesis is all over the place with its missing quotation signs, creating a confusion between direct quotes and paraphrases. The thesis employs a rather authoritative and confident style of presentation which is commendable in a bachelor thesis. The citation confusion, however, tends to subvert the strength of the arguments by diminishing the credibility of the way the author incorporates secondary sources.

Overall a promising and ambitious piece of academic writing, unfortunately held back by its formal and technical inadequacies.

V Brně dne 29th May 2018

Mgr. Jan Čapek