

SUPERVISOR'S ASSESSMENT OF A WRITTEN THESIS

Thesis title: Mythical Films of Theo Angelopoulos: Retelling with Greek Romance
Thesis author: Xueni Yang
Programme of study: CDM
Programme type: [Master's]

Definition of objectives and their fulfilment: 7 / 10

Xueni's thesis sets out to explore and more concretely theoretically define the work of Theo Angelopoulos, in both its narrative and aesthetic constructions by incorporating a number of theoretical tools like Mikhail Bakhtin's concept of Greek Romance, as well as her own personal experience as a filmmaker. While she doesn't quite manage to systematize Angelopoulos' filmic output in a completely unified manner, it does significantly add to the discourse regarding his oeuvre.

Topicality of the thesis topic (and relevance of the selected methodology in the case of a Master's thesis): 8 / 10

For Xueni, the thesis sets out to deal with a number of practicalities tied into her own filmmaking practice, especially the creation of modern day mythic structures. While the thesis is generally successful at addressing her interests, it isn't nearly as topical as it could be (as it does not draw on much from the contemporary discourse in Balkan studies). However, this might be my oversight as thesis advisor.

Scholarly contribution, originality of the thesis, and its utilisation in practice: 5 / 5

This thesis could easily be expanded on or published in a peer review journal, and I would, in fact, encourage Xueni to do so.

Logical construction and structuring of the thesis: 8 / 10

By and large, the thesis is logically constructed and flows nicely from section to section, however some more care could be taken to make the transition between the theoretical sections meld more smoothly with the practical discussion of cinematic language and style.

Formal requirements and requisite contents of the thesis, including its length: 20 / 20

This thesis fulfils all the formal requirements in terms of content and construction.

Level of language, style and terminology: 4

Xueni's English and academic style are quite good, as is her grasp of academic terminology, especially her interpretations of Bakhtin's theory and the proper usage of his terminology. There are a few points where some minor terminology is confused by generally, this remains a strong thesis.

Reviewer's opinion on the result of the check by the Theses system 15 / 15:

The thesis system revealed only two cases of potential (extremely low chance) plagiarism, which turned out to be properly cited sources which seem to have been flagged because the style guide the student is using is slightly out of date. (All students from this year forward must use ISO-690, however Xueni is exempt from the new regulations because of the dean's decree.) Otherwise all sources are cited and formatted as they were according to the previous regulations.

Evaluator's overall summary 24 / 25:

This thesis is a very good attempt at systematizing and analysing Angelopolous' work from both a practical and a theoretical perspective. I took off a point because I would like to see this thesis generally stay within one realm or the other, but I realize that Xueni wanted to see if this approach could work. Given

Questions and topics for discussion at the oral defence:

How do Angelopolous' narrative strategies mirror the strategies outlined by Bakhtin in his landmark text *Rablais and His World*? Does this embrace of mythic time and causality represent a return to the epic narrative structure, or a departure from it, as cinema is an inherently temporal artform, where as the oral or literary epic is not bound by time in the same way?

Recommendation of the thesis for the oral defence:

Recommended for Defense.

Recommended grade: A- (91%)

Date of elaboration of this

assessment: 23.5.2023

Mgr. Nicholas David Hudac, Ph.D.

.....

Name of the thesis supervisor

.....

(date and signature)