

## POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

*Jméno a příjmení studenta:* Bc. Hana HRADILOVÁ  
*Název diplomové práce:* Terrorism in American Novels by Irving, Roth and Updike  
*Vedoucí diplomové práce:* PhDr. Christopher KOY, M.A., Ph.D.  
*Oponent diplomové práce:* PhDr. Alice Sukdolová, Ph.D.

- I. Cíl práce a jeho naplnění: 1. Cíl práce byl stanoven a naplněn v souladu s tématem
- II. Struktura práce: 1. Logická, jasná a přehledná
- III. Práce s literaturou: 2. Velmi dobrá práce s adekvátními prameny v patřičném rozsahu
- IV. Prezentace a interpretace dat: 1. Systematická, logická prezentace, originální a důsledná interpretace
- V. Formální stránka: 1. Odpovídá všem stanoveným požadavkům
- VI. Jazyková úroveň práce: 2. Velmi dobrá
- VII. Náročnost zpracování tématu: 2. Vysoká
- VIII. Přínosy práce: 1. Originální zpracování a názory, předkládá nová zjištění

Vyjádření vedoucího diplomové práce:

This diploma work is well written, thoughtful, and a commendable effort. Terrorism has been a timely topic for the last couple of decades, not only for the media, but for American fiction writers as well. Post September 11, 2001 writing has been influenced by the notion that an attack may happen all of a sudden and without warning, inspiring fear of the unknown. (Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz has a novel under way dealing with terrorism.) This thesis tackles two pre-9/11 novels and one post-9/11 work by John Updike. I can say that in this thesis the fiction has thoughtfully read and criticized. There are very few spelling mistakes and occasional prepositional errors.

The section of *Hotel New Hampshire* by John Irving with the terror subplot in Vienna is described and treated masterfully, both from its own set of characters as well as the historical basis for the Marxist cell. In Roth's novel *American Pastoral* the end of

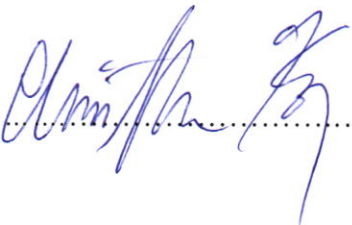
nonviolent, peaceful protests is a reaction against the Vietnam War, and it turns violent based on the historical Weathermen's violent bombings which Miss Hradilova references. Unlike the alienated foreign characters who appear robotic, almost like archetypes, Philip Roth's terrorist is a red-blooded young American woman from near Newark, New Jersey whom the reader can more easily identify with since not only Meredith's youth and home are extensively presented by Roth, but her parents, grandparents and entire milieu of entrepreneurial wealth she grows up in is in play. As half Jewish, half Catholic, Meredith Lvov seems unconcerned about her ethnic heritage as much as the earlier generations seem to be. It is the fantastic style of Roth that may help the reader come to understand Merry's motivation better than Irving's odd-behaving terrorists and I miss Miss Hradilová referring to this aspect, since the reader really gets to know Meredith better, but so little of that reader experience is referenced.

In *Terrorist* by John Updike, and the final novel by this writer of over 40 books, a "home-grown" terrorist also from New Jersey and is also "mixed" – half Catholic, half Muslim. His recruitment and his attitudes are more deeply delved into than even by Roth, whose main focus is the terrorist's father while Updike focuses attention squarely on Ahmed Ashmawy Mulloy whose absent Egyptian father is his complete and only fixation. Unlike the terrorists in the novels by Roth and Irving, Ahmed is not based on a historical terrorist but is an invention of Updike's imagination and research. Miss Hradilová does a thorough job in her analysis of this novel including twists and turns. She also offers her critical opinions.

Navrhovaná známka: vyborně

Otázky k obhajobě:

1. In *American Pastoral*, why does Roth's Meredith Lvov turn into a Jain? What is Roth's purpose in this weird ending, in your opinion?
2. In Updike's novel, there are Jews and Catholics and Muslims in close contact with one another, and the Jew is to be regarded as a hero, stopping Ahmed from killing thousands of New Yorkers. Why do you suppose Updike chose to write the novel in this manner from an ethnic/religious point of view? (Updike is the ultimate WASP).

Podpis vedoucího diplomové práce:  .....

Datum: 16. 5. 2018

\*nehodící se škrtněte