



Euroculture Thesis Assessment Form

Name of Student: Ms Gonca Topal

Thesis Title: Idea of The West in *The Magic Mountain*. Literary and Cultural Approaches

Home University: Palacký University of Olomouc (Czech Republic)

Host University: University of Groningen (Netherlands)

Name of Supervisor: Prof dr W.E. Krul

In this report, please consider the following, by answering the following questions:

1) Problem statement, method and theory:

- a) The aims and objectives of the thesis – are these clearly identified and explained? Is there a well formulated problem statement? Briefly explain.

The aims and objectives of the thesis (The idea of the West in Thomas Mann's novel *The Magic Mountain*, 1924) are clearly identified and explained, and there is a well formulated problem statement (How does Thomas Mann develop an idea of the liberal Western intellectual and cultural tradition, as opposed to 'Eastern' collectivism, in his novel, and how does he evaluate both traditions?)

- b) Has a suitable methodology and theoretical frame been taken to solve the stated problems? Yes, it has.

- c) Does the conclusion provide convincing answers/proof to the initial questions/hypotheses? Indeed, it does.

- d) Does the research constitute an original contribution to the field of knowledge in this field or domain? Yes. The thesis offers a valuable overview of the existing interpretations of the novel (as regards this major aspect) and it brings these readings to an original conclusion.

- e) Is the research problem and the discussion of it of sufficient complexity for an MA level? Most certainly.

2) Structure:

a) Is the thesis coherently structured? Yes.

b) Are concepts clearly introduced and explained, and critically and consistently applied? Yes.

3) Sources (primary and secondary):

a) Has (enough) relevant (primary and secondary) literature been adequately interpreted and integrated into the thesis? Yes.

b) Is the bibliography/list of references complete and accurate? Yes.

4) Stylistics:

a) Is the use of language (English) acceptable and of the required standard (i.e. no spelling mistakes and typos, range of vocabulary, grammar)? The use of English is generally at a very high level, though not always entirely idiomatic.

b) Are references in the text given in a coherent and consistent manner (either in-text or as footnotes)? They are.

5) Format:

a) How is the thesis presented (i.e. consistency in lay-out, choice of fonts, headings, tables and graphs)? Lay-out and typography are correct.

6) General:

a) Have recommended revisions been executed to a satisfying degree? Yes.

b) To what degree has the student been able to work independently? Very much so.

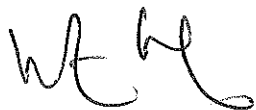
c) Any other relevant comments. Ms Topal has written a very good contextual analysis of the problem as presented in the novel. She has made use of all the relevant secondary literature. The thesis is fluently written. Points of criticism are, first, that Ms Topal made a difficult start and spent much time defining the subject she was going to work on, and second, that the discussion of the relevance of Thomas Mann's ideas for the present situation at the end of the thesis could have been more sustained.

(National) Grade: 7.5

ECTS Grade: B

Date and place: Groningen, March 30, 2012

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wt H' or similar, written in a cursive style.A short, horizontal black line drawn below the signature.