

BACHELOR'S THESIS EXAMINER REPORT
PPE – Bachelor's in Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Biopolitics and Digital Surveillance in the United States during the COVID 19 Pandemic
Student's name:	Vukan Bozovic
Referee's name:	Jakub Franěk

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Contribution and argument (quality of research and analysis, originality)	50	25
	Research question (definition of objectives, plausibility of hypotheses)	15	10
	Theoretical framework (methods relevant to the research question)	15	5
<i>Total</i>		80	40
Minor Criteria			
	Sources, literature	10	5
	Presentation (language, style, cohesion)	5	3
	Manuscript form (structure, logical coherence, layout, tables, figures)	5	4
<i>Total</i>		20	12
TOTAL		100	52

Plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score: 5%

[NB:] If the plagiarism-check (URKUND) match score is above 15%, the reviewer has to include his/her assessment of the originality of the reviewed thesis in his/her review.

Reviewer's commentary according to the above criteria (min. 1800 characters including spaces when recommending a passing grade, min. 2500 characters including spaces when recommending a failing grade):

The author has chosen an interesting and both theoretically and politically relevant, albeit not really original topic, for his BA Thesis: a critical examination of public health policies in the USA during the COVID-19 pandemic theoretically framed by Michel Foucault's understanding of biopower as well as his broader take on the relation between scientific knowledge and political power in modern society.

While the choice of the topic seems justifiable and potentially very interesting, the resulting thesis can be best described as deeply underwhelming. The submitted text reads as an extended literature review or, in other words, a compilation of observations collected from existing secondary sources.

Amazingly enough, the list of bibliography includes only a single item authored by Michel Foucault (*The Birth of Biopolitics*) which appears to be related to the topic of the thesis only by its title. In any case, the author does not even attempt to engage in any kind of critical discussion of Foucault's own arguments, since the theoretical framework of his thesis is entirely derived from secondary sources.

Similar critique could be applied to the empirical parts of the reviewed thesis, which likewise relies on the reproduction of observations already published by other authors. In other words, the author of the reviewed thesis did not even attempt to conduct any kind of empirical research by himself.

Nonetheless, since this is only a BA-level Thesis, and since its author has demonstrated genuine effort to pass the required criteria, I must admit the thesis to defence.

Proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F): E

Suggested questions for the defence are:

- Why did you insist on writing your thesis on the political response to Covid-19 pandemic in the USA, instead of e.g. your own home-country of Montenegro?
- Are there any relevant differences between American political response to Covid-19 pandemic in comparison to a political response by EU countries? If so, could you try to explain such differences by peculiarities of the US system of government?

I (do not) recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.