The thesis aims to explore the depiction of death in selected contemporary Native American literature. To this end, it utilizes Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony*, Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks* and N. Scott Momaday’s *House Made of Dawn*. The first chapter references the history of colonization, paying attention particularly to the on-going “cultural genocide” (8) of the native population and the need to counter this process possibly through producing “American Indian literature” (10). The second chapter offers a more detailed exploration of the cultural conflicts between the colonists and the Native Americans. Among other things, it discusses the understanding of time and death in traditional spiritualities. The remainder of the thesis then offers a reading of the aforementioned three novels. The analysis evolves around the characters of Tayo, Nanapush, Pauline, Fleur and Abel, among others. The central argument here is that while Silko, Erdrich and Momaday highlight the destructiveness of Christianity, in addition to attempting to rejuvenate suppressed native spiritualities, they accept the imposed merging of Christianity with traditional spirituality—thus Ms. Glatzová views Tayo from *Ceremony* both as a redeemer of the native tradition and a Christ figure, for example, or considers how the character of Lulu in *Tracks* represents the middle way between the extremes of Pauline and Fleur.

Both the introductory section and the reading of the three selected novels by Silko, Erdrich and Momaday are informed and they are supported by a good number of secondary sources. The thesis is well structured and the prose is clear, with relatively minor language and stylistic errors (the text has improved substantially over the course of the past months; some remaining errors include “z nich se stali oběti vykořisťování” [5], “this this chapter” [13] and “Tayo did enlist in the army solely to protect Tayo who had enlisted already” [27]).

The defense could address an issue raised at the very beginning of the thesis, where it is argued that “it is necessary for the Indian authors to create a new image of the native communities in their literary works” (10). In Ms. Glatzová’s view, do Silko, Erdrich and Momaday accomplish this task in their novels, and how?

Proposed grade: 1 or 2 (výborně or velmi dobře)