

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2719907 DCU 21111022 Charles 44461283
Dissertation Title	Vox Populi, Vox Dei? The Politicization of Abortion in the United States

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

	Late Submission Penalty 2 working days = 4 secondary bands
Word Count Penalty (1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)	
Word Count: 20552 Suggested Penalty: 1 point penalty	

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).	
Before Penalty: B2 [16]	After Penalty: D1 [11]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Very Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very Good
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Very Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Very Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Very Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Very Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not required

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- *Appropriate word count*

No

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This is an interesting thesis on a topic, which deserves attention but has been dramatically understudied, i.e. how fundamental rights – here the right of abortion – can be politicised and voted on. The context is the legal-political edifice of US constitutional debate, and specifically the Supreme Court’s relatively recent overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*. The author does a solid job to venture out to realms of political philosophy to explain liberal and communitarian concepts of the state. Subsequently, it is linked to the U.S. political and constitutional setting. What is explored, inevitably, is the administrative control and federal/federated division of political power in the US, which has impacted dramatically on this issue area. I lack more thorough research design in this thesis, which would further solidify the main lines of research. On the other hand, I value the utilisation of human security and through it, the connection to security studies. It may have come earlier though. As for the formatting, style, formal requirements, all is in order here.

Reviewer 2

I agree with the first reviewer's assessment and in particular regarding the suggested improvement on research design and structuring of the dissertation. The link to a security framework comes late and could have been a framing device throughout. This should not detract, however, from what is otherwise a very good piece of work.