

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Allan Sikk a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk and Alexa Stewart alexa.stewart@ucl.ac.uk)

Please note that IMESS students are not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Cosimo STAHL
Dissertation title:	Cleavage politics and Europeanisation-induced transformation of the national political space – The case of the Czech Republic

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
Knowledge <i>Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.</i>	X		
Analysis & Interpretation <i>Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.</i>	X		
Structure & Argument <i>Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>		X	
Presentation & Documentation <i>Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.</i>		x	

ECTS Mark:	72	Charles Mark:	A/1	Marker:	Jiří Vykoukal
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	12.6.2014

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+): Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.

Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

A = výborně = 1

B/C (UCL mark 60-69):

A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

B/C = velmi dobře = 2

D/E (UCL mark 50-59):

Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work, demonstrating methodological awareness. 55 or over equates to a D grade.

D/E = dobře = 3

F (UCL mark less than 50):

Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

F = neprospěl = 4

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND
DETAILED FEEDBACK!

Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (*at least 300 words*):

The dissertation is ambitious - it tries to take a "classical" cleavage theory as it was created by Lipset&Rokkan in 1960s, verify it vis a vis the changes which have taken place since it was created and to show how possible innovation of the theory could work when introduced to a concrete research situation which is the Czech Republic between elections in 1996 and 2006.

Being an "eye-witness" of the process I have to say that from the beginning Cosimo was performing a qualified knowledge of the topic, ability to learn more about possible approaches (e.g correspondence analysis) and consequently improve his conceptualization, and also the fact he was able to work with Czech language sources must be appreciated.

I can see some minor problems originated mainly in the fact that the dissertations seems to be finished in a hurry and also, with his knowledge of the Czech language Cosimo could incorporate some texts produced by Czech authors. There could be also a more sophisticated "transfer" of Kriesi's concept to the "heart of the topic" which also offered a lot of chances to return back to Rokkan, but it is rather a challenge or proposal for the next research.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 3 questions*):

1. Do we need a new "Lipset&Rokkan" scheme or is it just ok to innovate their concept?
2. What more could have been done with Kriesi's concept vis a vis the analyzis of the Czech situation?
3. Originally the dissertation could include also a Slovak situation – is it possible (at least) to outline how the dissertation could function in the Slovak case?