



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 407.7 Lec 01
“A 19th or 20th Century Philosopher: Wittgenstein”

Fall Term 2014

Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesday 6:00pm-8:45pm, ST 126

Instructor: Walter Glannon

Office: SS1226

Office Phone: 403-220-3171

Email: wglannon@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30am-1:30pm

Course Description

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) is considered by many to be the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. This course will involve close reading of 3 texts representing early, middle and late periods of Wittgenstein's thought. We will examine the picture theory of propositions, the idea that logical propositions show something but say nothing, solipsism and “mysticism” in the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, the only book published during his lifetime (in 1921). In addition, we will examine the idea of meaning as use, the paradoxes of rule-following, the private-language argument, philosophical psychology and other aspects of the relation between mind and language in the *Philosophical Investigations*. Finally, we will analyze Wittgenstein's views on belief, knowledge and skepticism in *On Certainty*. We will discuss these texts in light of an apparent conflict between two methodologies. The first is based on the idea that philosophical questions are symptomatic of misusing language and are not to be solved but dissolved by a type of therapy. The second is based on the idea that philosophical questions are genuine and to be addressed by an argumentative, problem-solving approach. The general aim of the course is to explore whether Wittgenstein's therapeutic and argumentative methodologies are distinct and conflicting or overlapping and complementary.

Required Texts

- *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, F. Ramsey and C.K. Ogden, trans., M. Joseph, ed. Broadview 2014
- *Philosophical Investigations*, 3rd ed., G.E.M. Anscombe, trans. Blackwell 1973
- *On Certainty*, G.E.M. Anscombe and G.H. Von Wright, trans. Harper Collins 1972

Optional

- *Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Introduction*, H.O. Mounce. Chicago 1981
- *Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations: An Introduction*, David Stern. Cambridge 2006
- Journal articles on Wittgenstein corresponding to the 3 main texts available at Desire2Learn and listed on weekly reading schedule

Classroom Etiquette

Because this course involves close reading of texts, use of distracting electronic devices of any kind (laptops, tablets, iPhones, iPads, etc.) will not be allowed in class without the specific permission of the instructor.

Course Requirements

- 2 in-class quizzes, the first September 23 (10 percent), the second December 2 (10 percent) = 20 percent
- 1 class presentation = 10 percent
- 2 5-7-page double-spaced papers, the first due October 14 (35 percent), the second due November 25 (35 percent) = 70 percent
- There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Policy on Late Submission of Assignments

Papers submitted later than the due date will lose one half-letter grade for each day beyond that date. Students with medical or other extenuating reasons for not submitting a paper on the due date will not be penalized if they inform the instructor and provide him with documentation confirming the special circumstances.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+	98-100 %	C+	74-77 %
A	94-97 %	C	70-73 %
A-	90-93 %	C-	66-69 %
B+	86-89 %	D+	62-65 %
B	82-85 %	D	58-61 %
B-	78-81 %	F	<57 %

Schedule

Week 1: September 9: Introduction to Wittgenstein's life and thought. *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 57-94 (Mounce, Chapters 1-7; Stern, 40-46)

Week 2: September 16: *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 94-117 (Pears, "Wittgenstein's Treatment of Solipsism in the *Tractatus*," McGuinness, "The Mysticism of the *Tractatus*," Thompson, "Wittgenstein, Tolstoy and the Meaning of Life," Desire2Learn; Mounce, Chapters 9-10 and 12))

Week 3: September 23. **Quiz 1** on the *Tractatus; Philosophical Investigations* (Lear, "Leaving the World Alone," Desire2Learn)

Week 4: September 30: *Philosophical Investigations* (McDowell, "Wittgenstein on Following a Rule," Wilson, "Semantic Realism and Kripke's Wittgenstein," and M. Kremer," Wilson on Kripke's Wittgenstein" in Desire2Learn; Stern, Chapter 6)

Week 5: October 7: *Philosophical Investigations* (Stern, relevant chapters)

Week 6: October 14: *Philosophical Investigations* **First Paper Due** (Stern, relevant chapters)

Week 7: October 21: *Philosophical Investigations*

Week 8: October 28: *Philosophical Investigations*

Week 9: November 4: *Philosophical Investigations*

Week 10: November 11: Reading Period, No Class

Week 11: November 18: *Philosophical Investigations; On Certainty*

Week 12: November 25: *On Certainty*. **Second Paper Due**

Week 13: December 2: **Quiz 2** on *On Certainty*; Summary of Wittgenstein's work and its significance for philosophy in the 20th century and beyond

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning**– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Reid Buchanan buchanar@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)