

Fall 2012
TTh 1:30-2:45
Phone: 280-6659

Prof. Phillips cmphilli@uno.edu
Office: LA 391
Hours: by appointment

The Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein
(Philosophy 3500, section 001)

Course Description

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of the philosophical issues involved in the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein – including issues in epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and logic. The course will be conducted in seminar form, with students regularly engaged in discussion and interpretation of the texts, and is geared toward the philosophy major and those students from other disciplines who already have an introductory knowledge of the subject. Wittgenstein’s writings are concise and insightful, often requiring a great deal of familiarity with philosophical problems – as well as previous writings on those problems - in order to ascertain their full meaning. As a result, the primary objective of the course will be to enable the student to work through Wittgenstein’s writings and to understand the general import of his thought.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, the student will have a better understanding of the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, as well as its significance for subsequent thinkers. In particular, students will be able to 1) identify key figures relevant to Wittgenstein’s thought, 2) define key terms in his thinking, and those of related thinkers, 3) have a clear sense of the applicability of the issues involved to traditional philosophy, and 4) have a clear sense of the applicability of these issues to more contemporary philosophies.

Course Requirements

Students will be required to write a term paper (of not less than 3000 words) on some aspect of Wittgenstein’s philosophy. There will also be two in-class presentations by each student (one on the student’s chosen paper topic, and one on a topic related to Wittgenstein’s work). For the term paper and presentation, students will be encouraged to find and study sources beyond the three texts for the course. There will also be two exams for the course

(midterm & final). Finally, regular attendance is required (more than 2 weeks of absences will result in the loss of a letter grade: e.g. A + 5 absences = B).

Grading

The final grade for the course will be determined by the term paper (40%), the midterm (20%), the final exam (20%), and in-class presentations (2 x 10%). Attendance will also play a role in deciding borderline cases.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online:

http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/Policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm

Disability Accommodations

UNO is committed to providing for the needs of students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Students who qualify for services will receive academic modifications to which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of students who may require such services or modifications to register each semester with the Office of Disability Services (University Center 260) and follow its procedures for obtaining assistance.

Required Texts

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, Routledge, 1998

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, Blackwell, 2001

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *On Certainty*, Harper, Torchbooks, 1969

Ray Monk, *Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius*, Penguin, 1990

Also Recommended:

Hugo Bedau - Thinking and Writing about Philosophy and/or

Zachary Seech - Writing Philosophy Papers

Tentative Reading Schedule

August	21	Introduction
	23	Russell's Introduction & Proposition 1
	28	Proposition 2 - pp.31-43
	30	Proposition 3 - pp.43-61
September	4	Proposition 4 - pp.61-103
	11	Proposition 5 - pp.103-153
	13	Proposition 6 - pp.153-189
	18	Proposition 7 - p.189 & Review
	20	Introduction to Philosophical Investigations
	25	Part 1 - Passages 1-100
	27	Passages 101-200
October	2	Passages 201-300
	4	Passages 301-400
	9	<i>Reading Day</i>
	11	<i>Mid-semester Break</i>
	16	Passages 401-500
	18	Passages 501-600
	23	Passages 601-690
	25	Investigations - Part 2
	30	On Certainty – Passages 1-100
November	1*	On Certainty – Passages 101-200
	6	On Certainty – Passages 201-300
	8	On Certainty – Passages 301-400
	13	On Certainty – Passages 401-500
	15	On Certainty – Passages 501-600
	20	On Certainty – Passages 601-676
	22	Thanksgiving
	27	Review
	29	Term Papers Due
December	5	Final (12:30 pm)

* Final date to drop courses or resign from the University: 11/5