

**Course Code: PHIL 4292**

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Course Title: Contemporary Western Philosophers: Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy (Wittgenstein's Philosophy)

2011-12 Term 2

Instructor: Cheung, Kam Ching Leo (張錦青) (email: [leokccheung@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:leokccheung@cuhk.edu.hk))

Time / Venue : Tuesday 10:30-13:15 / LHC G06

EMAIL ACCOUNT FOR THIS COURSE: [phil4292a@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:phil4292a@yahoo.com.hk)

**Course Description:**

This course is on the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Wittgenstein was one of the most influential philosophers in the twentieth century. His philosophy was the main source of influence of several trends in analytic philosophy, including logical positivism and the ordinary language school. This course aims to introduce the Philosophy of Wittgenstein, through guided studies of the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and the *Philosophical Investigations*, with the help of his other writings like the *Notebooks*, the *Blue Book*, etc. Different interpretations will be examined, and the continuities and discontinuities of the two books will also be explored. Issues to be discussed include those concerning the nature of philosophy, logic, language, thought, solipsism, ethics, meaning and understanding, following a rule, private language and Philosophy of Mind.

**Learning outcomes:**

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- understand the key concepts, major issues and prominent theses and positions in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations*.
- critically discuss and evaluate the major issues and positions in Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* and *Philosophical Investigations*.
- appreciate the main concerns and the nature of the major issues in Wittgenstein's Philosophy.
- acquire skills in argumentative discussion and in writing about issues in Wittgenstein's Philosophy.

**Assessment:**

Tutorial performance	(15%)
Short essay	(20%)
Term Paper*	(65%)

**Tutorials:** [to be explained at the end of this course outline]

**Short essays:** You need to write a short essay for this course. It would carry a maximum 20% of the mark of the course.

Word limit of each short essay: 1500-2000

Deadline for the short essay: 13 March 2012

A set of topics will be given to you three weeks before the deadline of the short essay.

**Term paper:**

Word limit of the term paper: 3000-5000

Deadline for term paper: 30 April 2012

**Attention:**

In your *term paper and short essays*, if there are any ideas, opinions and/or materials which are taken from others, no matter whether you quote them word by word or not, you MUST provide the sources. Otherwise, you would be considered as having committed Plagiarism. (Please also refer to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/> for 'Honesty in Academic Work'.)

This only applies to the term paper: Students are required to submit their term papers to the **VeriGuide** system before handing them in. Please visit the following website for the VeriGuide system: <http://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/portal/page/index.jsp>

**Main texts:**

Wittgenstein, L. *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

———. *Philosophical Investigations*

**Outline Content:**

1. Introduction  
The Life of Wittgenstein and His Philosophy
2. On the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*  
What is the *Tractatus* about?
3. Early Influences: Hertz, Frege and Russell
4. Logic
5. Language and Thought
6. Philosophy

7. Solipsism, the Self and Ethics
  - On the *Philosophical Investigations*
8. Dismantling the *Tractatus*
9. The Conception of Philosophy
10. Language, Meaning and Understanding
11. Following a Rule
12. Private Language
13. Philosophy of Mind

### **References (selected):**

#### **(i) Selected Works by Wittgenstein**

- The Blue and Brown Books*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1958.
- Notebooks 1914-16*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., G. H. von Wright & G. E. M. Anscombe (eds.), G. E. M. Anscombe (tran.), Oxford: Blackwell 1979.
- Philosophical Grammar*, R. Rhees (ed.), A. Kenny (trans.), Oxford: Blackwell 1978.
- Philosophical Investigations*. G. E. M. Anscombe (trans.), Oxford: Blackwell 1968.
- \*\**Philosophical Investigations*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn., G. E. M. Anscombe (trans.), Oxford: Blackwell 2001.
- Philosophical Investigations*, G. E. M. Anscombe, P. M. S. Hacker and Joachim Schulte (trans.), revised 4<sup>th</sup> edition by P. M. S. Hacker and Schulte, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell 2009.
- Philosophical Occasions 1912-1951*, Indiana: Hackett 1993.
- Philosophical Remarks*, R. Rhees (ed.), R. Hargreaves & R. White (trans.), Oxford: Blackwell 1975.
- \*\**Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, C. K. Ogden (tran.), RKP 1981.
- \*\**Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, D. F. Pears & B. F. McGuinness (trans.), London: RKP, 1974.

#### **(ii) Works on Wittgenstein and His Philosophy**

- Block, I. (ed.) *Perspectives on the Philosophy of Wittgenstein*. Oxford: Blackwell 1981.
- \*\*Crary, A. and Read, R. (eds.) *The New Wittgenstein*, London: Routledge 2000.
- Diamond, C. *The Realist Spirit*, Cambridge: MIT press 1991.
- Fogelin, R. J. *Wittgenstein*, 2nd edn. London: RKP 1987.
- Glock, H.-J. *A Wittgenstein Dictionary*. Oxford: Blackwell 1996.
- Hacker, P. M. S. *Insight and Illusion*. revised edn. Oxford: Clarendon 1986.
- . *Wittgenstein's Place in Twentieth-Century Analytic Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell 1996.
- Kolbel, M. and Weiss, B. (eds) *Wittgenstein's Last Significance*. London: Routledge 2004.
- Malcolm, N. *Nothing is Hidden*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1986.
- McCarthy, T. and Stidd, S. C. (eds.) *Wittgenstein in America*. Oxford: Clarendon 2001.
- \*\*McGuinness, B. *Wittgenstein A Life: Young Ludwig (1889-1921)*. London: Duckworth 1988.

- \*\*Monk, R. *Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Duty of a Genius*. London: Vintage 1991.  
 ————. *How to Read Wittgenstein*. NY: Norton 2005.
- Rhees, R. *Discussions of Wittgenstein*. Bristol: Thoemmes Press 1996.  
 ————. *Wittgenstein and the Possibility of Discourse*. D. Z. Philips (ed.).  
 Cambridge: CUP 1998.
- Sluga, H. and Stern, D. (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Wittgenstein*.  
 Cambridge: CUP 1996.
- Stroll, A. *Wittgenstein*. Oxford: Oneworld 2002.
- Stern, D. *Wittgenstein on Mind and Language*. Oxford: OUP 1995.
- Winch, P. (ed.) *Studies in the Philosophy of Wittgenstein*. London: RKP 1969.

**(iii) Works on the Tractatus**

- \*\*Anscombe, G. E. M. *An Introduction to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*. Philadelphia:  
 University of Pennsylvania Press 1971.
- \*\*Black, M. *A Companion to Wittgenstein's Tractatus*. Ithaca: Cornell University  
 Press 1964.
- Copi, I. M. and Beard, R. W. (eds.) *Essays on Wittgenstein's Tractatus*, New York:  
 Hafner Press 1973.
- Heck E. H. (ed.) *From Frege to Wittgenstein*. Oxford: OUP 2002.
- McManus, D. *The enchantment of Words: Wittgenstein's Tractatus Logico-  
 Philosophicus*. Oxford: Clarendon 2006.
- \*\*Mounce, H. O. *Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Introduction*. Oxford: Basil  
 Blackwell 1981.
- Pears, D. *The False Prison Volume One*. Oxford: Clarendon 1987.
- Stocker, B. (ed.) *Post-Analytic Tractatus*. Aldershot: Ashgate 2004.

**(iv) Works on Philosophical Investigations**

- \*\*Baker, G. P. and Hacker P. M. S. *Wittgenstein : Understanding and Meaning,  
 Volume 1 of an analytical commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*.  
 Second and extensively revised edition by P. M. S. Hacker. Oxford:  
 Blackwell 2005.
- \*\*———. *Wittgenstein : Rules, Grammar, and Necessity, Volume 2 of an  
 analytical commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised  
 edition by P. M. S. Hacker, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell 2010.
- \*\*Hacker, P. M. S. *Wittgenstein : Meaning and Mind, Volume 3 of an Analytical  
 Commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*. Oxford: Blackwell 1990.
- \*\*———. *Wittgenstein: Mind and Will, Volume 4 of an Analytical Commentary  
 on the Philosophical Investigations*. Oxford: Blackwell 1990.
- \*\*Hallett, G. *A Companion to Wittgenstein's "Philosophical Investigations"*. Ithaca:  
 Cornell University Press 1977.
- Kripke, S. *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*. Oxford: Blackwell 1982.
- Lugg, A. *Wittgenstein's Investigations 1-133*. London: Routledge 2000.
- \*\*McGinn, M. *Wittgenstein and the Philosophical Investigations*. London:  
 Routledge 1997.
- Miller, A. and Wright, C. *Rule-Following and Meaning*. Chesham: Acumen 2002.
- Pitcher, P. (ed.) *Wittgenstein: The Philosophical Investigations*. Indiana: University  
 of Notre Dame Press: 1966.

\*\* . These books have been reversed at the Library (with 4 hours loan period).

### Teaching Schedule (Provisional):

	Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1	10-01-2012	1. The Life of Wittgenstein and His Philosophy	
Week 2	17-01-2012	2. What is the <i>Tractatus</i> about?	TLP
Week 3	24-01-2012	HOLIDAY	
Week 4	31-01-2012	3. Early Influences: Hertz, Frege and Russell 4. Logic	TLP TLP
Week 5	07-02-2012	4. Logic 5. Language and Thought	TLP TLP
Week 6	14-02-2012	5. Language and Thought 6. Philosophy	TLP TLP
Week 7	21-02-2012	7. Solipsism, the Self and Ethics	TLP
Week 8	28-02-2012	8. Dismantling the <i>Tractatus</i> 9. The Conception of Philosophy <i>[12:15-13:15: First Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 134-142 PI 89-133
Week 9	06-03-2012	10. Language, Meaning and Understanding <i>[12:15-13:15: Second Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 1-88, 143-184
Week 10	13-03-2012	10. Language, Meaning and Understanding <i>[12:15-13:15: Third Tutorial Presentation]</i> <b>Submission of the short essay</b>	PI 1-88, 143-184
Week 11	20-03-2012	11. Following a Rule <i>[12:15-13:15: Fourth Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 185-242
Week 12	27-03-2012	12. Private Language <i>[12:15-13:15: Fifth Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 243-275
Week 13	03-04-2012	12. Private Language <i>[12:15-13:15: Sixth Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 243-275
Week 14	10-04-2012	13. Philosophy of Mind <i>[12:15-13:15: Seventh Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 281-307 pp.
Week 15	17-04-2012	13. Philosophy of Mind <i>[12:15-13:15: Eighth Tutorial Presentation]</i>	PI 281-307 pp.

**Deadline for the term paper: 30 April 2012**

## **Tutorial schedule and topics:**

**Time: 28 February to 17 April 2012 / Tuesday 12:15-13:15**

The class will be divided into sixteen groups, namely, 'group 1' to 'group 16'. Each group has two to three students. Two groups will present in a tutorial class (which may be seen as consisting of two half-hour sessions). Each group should spend 10 to 15 minutes for the presentation. Ample time should be left for discussion.

[Mounce]: Mounce, H. O. *Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Introduction*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell 1981.

[Baker & Hacker I]: Baker, G. P. and Hacker P. M. S. *Wittgenstein : Understanding and Meaning, Volume 1 of an analytical commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*. Second and extensively revised edition by P. M. S. Hacker. Oxford: Blackwell 2005.

[Baker & Hacker II]: Baker, G. P. and Hacker P. M. S. *Wittgenstein : Rules, Grammar, and Necessity, Volume 2 of an analytical commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition by P. M. S. Hacker, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell 2010.  
[You may use the 1988 first edition of the book.]

[Hacker III]: Hacker, P. M. S. *Wittgenstein : Meaning and Mind, Volume 3 of an Analytical Commentary on the Philosophical Investigations*. Oxford: Blackwell 1990.

### **1. First Tutorial Class (28-02-2012)**

**Group 1** Topic: The Picture Theory  
Basic Text: **TLP 2.1-3.02, 3.1-3.144, 4.01-4.022**  
Mounce, Chapter 2, pp.22-34.

**Group 2** Topic: The Propositions of Logic  
Basic Text: **TLP 4.26-4.4661, 6-6.13**  
Mounce, Chapter 3, pp.35-48.

### **2. Second Tutorial Class (06-03-2012)**

**Group 3** Topic: The General Form of a Proposition  
Basic Text: **TLP 4.5-4.53, 5.3, 5.47-5.472, 5.5-5.524, 6-6.01**  
Mounce, Chapter 4, pp.49-57.

**Group 4** Topic: Solipsism  
Basic Text: **TLP 5.541-5.5421, 5.6-5.641**  
Mounce, Chapter 9, pp.87-92.

### **3. Third Tutorial Class (13-03-2012)**

**Group 5** Topic: Value  
Basic Text: **TLP 6.373-6.374, 6.4-6.522**  
Mounce, Chapter 10, pp.93-100.

- Group 6** Topic: The Propositions of Philosophy  
Basic Text: **TLP 4.001-4.0031, 4.1-4.116, 6.54-7**  
Mounce, Chapter 11, pp.101-109.
4. **Fourth Tutorial Class (20-03-2012)**
- Group 7** Topic: The Augustinian picture and language game  
Basic Text: **PI 1-27**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
- Group 8** Topic: Ostensive definition, names and their meanings  
Basic Text: **PI 27-49**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
5. **Fifth Tutorial Class (27-03-2012)**
- Group 9** Topic: Family resemblance  
Basic Text: **PI 65-78**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
- Group 10** Topic: Proper name  
Basic Text: **PI 79-88**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
6. **Sixth Tutorial Class (03-04-2012)**
- Group 11** Topic: Philosophy  
Basic Text: **PI 89-133**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
- Group 12** Topic: Understanding  
Basic Text: **PI 162-184**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker I
7. **Seventh Tutorial Class (10-04-2012)**
- Group 13** Topic: Accord with a rule  
Basic Text: **PI 185-202**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker II
- Group 14** Topic: Rule following, practice and form of life  
Basic Text: **PI 203-242**  
The relevant comments in Hacker & Baker II
8. **Eighth Tutorial Class (17-04-2012)**
- Group 15** Topic: Private language  
Basic Text: **PI 243-280**  
The relevant comments in Hacker III
- Group 16** Topic: The inner and the outer  
Basic Text: **PI 281-207**  
The relevant comments in Hacker III