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

2015-16 Term 2

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

Time / Venue : Tuesday 10:30-13:15 / MMW 705

BLACKBOARD LEARN will be used for this course.

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.

Learning activities:

Learning activities of this course include lectures, tutorials, reading essays, and writing a short essay and a term paper:

1.   Lecture: 2 or 3 hours a week (mandatory).

2.   Tutorial class: one hour session every week for the last eight weeks (mandatory).

3.   A short essay.

4.   A term paper.

In this course, students are required to attend all the lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to read assigned essays before the lectures and study tutorial materials, consisting of assigned essays or book chapters, before the tutorial classes.

Students are also expected to devote sufficient time to the writing of a short essay and a term paper throughout the whole course. Surveying and reading the relevant literature and analyzing the materials are essential to the production of satisfactory short essay and term paper.

Students should be able to develop and enhance their analytical and argumentative skills through discussion in tutorials and classroom and writing the short essay and the term paper.

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: TBA

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: TBA

Attention:

In your *term paper and short essay*, 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:

Introduction

1. The Life of Wittgenstein and His Philosophy

On the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

2. 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, 2nd 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*, 3rd edn., G. E. M. Anscombe (trans.), Oxford: Blackwell 2001.
Philosophical Investigations, G. E. M. Anscombe, P. M. S. Hacker and Joachim Schulte (trans.), revised 4th 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 the *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.* 2nd 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: Connell 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).

Tutorial schedule and topics:

Time: TBA

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.* 2nd 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 (TBA)**

    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 (TBA)**

    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

<div align="right">Basic Text: **TLP 5.541-5.5421, 5.6-5.641**</div>

<div align="right">Mounce, Chapter 9, pp.87-92.</div>

3. **Third Tutorial Class** (TBA)

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** (TBA)

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** (TBA)

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** (TBA)
   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** (TBA)

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. <u>Eighth Tutorial Class</u> (TBA)

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 281-307**
		The relevant comments in Hacker III

<u>Academic honesty and plagiarism</u>:

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/ .

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.