

**PHL 470: LATER PHILOSOPHY OF LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN
FALL QUARER 2015-16**

Patricia Werhane, Professor

Tuesday: 3-6:15. Clifton Hall Philosophy Department Seminar room

One of the seminal thinkers in Anglo-American philosophy of the 20th century was the Austrian-British philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein. Wittgenstein started his philosophical career as a logician. But it is his later work, exemplified in his book, *Philosophical Investigations*, that is most commonly cited. In that work he criticizes most of traditional Anglo-American philosophy including his earlier writings in logic. His non-systemic approach to philosophical problems and his preoccupation with the centrality of language in human thinking and philosophical arguments are ideas for which he is best known. In this seminar we will focus on this later work and the innumerable secondary sources on his thinking. We will also take time to compare his thinking to some important thinkers in continental philosophy.

BOOKS: Ludwig Wittgenstein, *PHILOSOPHICAL INVESTIGATIONS* with German and English text, 4th edition. Wiley Blackwell. (in bookstore)

NOTE IF YOU HAVE AN EARLIER EDITION, THE PARAGRAPH NUMBERS ARE THE SAME, BUT PAGE NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT. AND IN THE FOURTH EDITION THE EDITORS RENAMED "PART II" AS "PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY FRAGMENT AND NUMBERED THE PARAGRAPHS. BUT IT IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME TEXT. THEY DID THIS BECAUSE PART II WAS PIECED TOGETHER FROM WITTGENSTEIN'S NOTES.]

Marie McGinn, ROUTLEDGE GUIDEBOOK TO WITTGENSTEIN'S PHILOSOPHICAL INVESTIGATIONS, 2nd edition, 2013: London and New York: Routledge. (in bookstore)

BOOKS COMPARING WITTGENSTEIN TO CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHERS:

The course is a seminar and students will be expected to attend AND participate. There is an overabundance of secondary sources on Wittgenstein. Because it is a graduate course I would expect that each of you would research some of those sources and bring one commentary into the discussion. So each week one or two of you will volunteer to do that and enlighten the rest of the class on some challenging views of Wittgenstein's later work. Marie McGinn's bibliography is helpful.

In addition, each student will be expected to give a commentary on one of the many comparative books on Wittgenstein and a continental philosopher or Freud. Look on line for these. There are many on Wittgenstein AND Heidegger, Derrida, Merleau-Ponty, Husserl, Foucault, and even Kierkegaard or an article that we all are informed about in advance. No surprises please and not a book report. Rather, discuss some points of comparison the author introduces. . We will spend the last 2 sessions on these commentaries and comparisons. [I will bring some sample books to class.]

There will be a final paper on a topic of your choice (and yes you can use one of your two presentations as the inspiration or backbone for your paper.)

GRADING:

Participation 20%

Commentary on a secondary source 15%

Commentary on a comparative book or article 25%

Final paper: 40%

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS: [We will PRETTY MUCH follow the text of the INVESTIGATIONS that McGinn couples with her commentary.]

Tuesday September 15th: Introduction to Wittgenstein and background for his later work

READ: McGuin, Introduction and Chapter One.

Wittgenstein: § 89-133

September 22:

READ: McGinn Chapters 2 and 3 (if possible)

Wittgenstein: : § 1-88 ; 134-242

September 29:

READ: McGinn Chapter 3 and 4

Wittgenstein: § 243-275

October 6: NO CLASS (we will have a make-up if we need one, determined by student schedules)

October 13:

READ: McGinn Chapter 5

Wittgenstein: § 276-315 and PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY FRAGMENT XI §352-60 [old Part II , xi: p. 227 beginning: "There is in general no such agreement..." ending on p. 228 "...the simulated glance in pictures.:]]

October 20:

READ: McGinn: Chapter 6

Wittgenstein: § 316-427 and PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY FRAGMENT §86-110. [Old Part II: x: pp. 190-192

October 27:

READ: McGuin Chapter 7

Wittgenstein: §428-693

November 3:

READ: McGuin Chapter 8

Wittgenstein §398-401 (Again)

See also PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY § 111-160 [old Part II. xi: 193 to 200—end of first paragraph.]

**November 10:
Summary and presentations on comparative commentaries**

November 17: Presentations on comparative commentaries

TBA: MAKE UP IF NEEDED. [IT IS A SMALL CLASS SO MAYBE WE WONT NEED THIS.]