

SYLLABUS — *Philosophical Investigations*, Wittgenstein

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Borgoni

Office hours: Monday 10:30-12:00 (or by appointment), Office 513

Time: Tuesday 11:45–13:15

Place: UR09.53

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Language of instruction: English

Course Summary

In this course, we will read *Philosophical Investigations* by Wittgenstein. Our readings will be organized by, but not reduced to, three topics connected to three famous passages of the book: the rule-following considerations (around sec.185); the private language argument (around sec. 258); and Moore's paradox (section X, part II). These passages relate to various philosophical questions in philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, which will be explained and discussed during the course.

Course Objectives

The course is a 'text interpretation course' focused on one of Wittgenstein's most influential works, *Philosophical Investigations*. We will *try* to read through the whole book, but our objective is to read, interpret and discuss the sections connected to three key passages: the rule-following considerations, the private language argument, and Moore's paradox. Our ultimate aim is to learn something about Wittgenstein's views on language, mind and introspection, and thereby think for ourselves on such topics.

Level of Difficult

This course does not require any previous philosophical knowledge and the book itself is very accessible to read. However, we will deal with some difficult questions in philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, epistemology and meta-philosophy. Thus, it is highly recommended to read the assigned passages prior to the class and come regularly to the sessions. You will be required to be actively engaged with the course material in order to successfully follow the course. Do not hesitate to bring your doubts and questions to class and office hours. You are very welcome to do so!

Course Material

- Wittgenstein, L. (1953) *Philosophical Investigations*.

There are many editions of *Philosophical Investigations*, but I'll be using the bilingual edition (German and English) published by Blackwell. The reference is the following: *Philosophical Investigations: The German Text, with a Revised English Translation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Edition*, by Ludwig Wittgenstein.

*****BRING YOUR COPY TO CLASS!!!*****

- Extra bibliography

Kripke, S. 1982, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*, Cambridge (Mass): Harvard University Press.

Wittgenstein, L. *The Blue Book*

Assessment

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

1. Class participation: 50%

We have 13 meetings in total. From the third meeting on, you will be graded on your participation. Your participation will be graded quantitatively, i.e., if you come and participate in every class, you guarantee 50% of your final grade.*

* Extra 10 points

You will have the chance of gaining 10 extra points on class participation depending on the quality of your questions and comments.

2. Final essay (4-5 pages): 50%

Guidelines will be given later in the course.

Schedule

The assigned readings (set of passages) will be posted weekly on the course's website (<http://moodle.uni-graz.at>). Please check moodle regularly.