

Philosophy of Language (Late Wittgenstein) (Phil 166)

Spring 2016

Instructor: Brandon Hogan
Office: 222 Locke Hall
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3:30, or by appointment
Email: Brandon.hogan@howard.edu
Phone:

Course Description

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) was one of the greatest philosophers of the 20th century. His groundbreaking *Philosophical Investigations* will be the subject of this course. In reading the *Investigations*, we will be confronted with some of philosophy's most pressing questions, including: What is the relationship between language and the world? What is truth? What does it mean to have a mind?

This course presumes no familiarity with Wittgenstein's work.

Course Requirements and Grading

Student grades will be based on **three, 5-7 page papers**.

I have very specific requirements for the papers and my assignments will require you to have a good understanding of material that will mostly be presented in the lectures. Obviously, then, regular attendance is crucial for your success in this course.

Statement on Americans with Disabilities Procedures:

Howard University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should contact the Office of the Dean for Special Services for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University or at the beginning of each semester. The Dean of the Office of Special Student Services can be reached at (202) 238-2420.

Plagiarism and cheating:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Evidence of dishonesty will be pursued, and confirmation will result in an "F" for the course. Students are responsible

for knowing which actions constitute plagiarism. Please refer to the Howard University Student Handbook, p.114.

Texts:

Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*.

The latest edition of this work (translated by P.M.S. Hacker) is available in the Howard bookstore. However, you may use the earlier version, translated by G.E.M. Anscombe.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Wittgenstein

Reading: *Philosophical Investigations (PI)*: sections 1-43.

Week 2: sec. 44-64

Week 3: 65-91

Week 4: 92-133

Week 5: 133-184

Week 6: catch up
First paper due

Week 7: 185-240

Week 8: 241- 362

Week 9: Continued discussion of the private language argument, 269-362

Week 10: 353-427

Week 11: catch up
Second paper due

Week 12: 428-490

Week 13: 491-570

Week 14: 571-693

Week 15: conclusions

Final paper will be due at the end of the exam period.