

Professor Elisabeth Camp

Office: 426 Logan Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30, Wednesdays 12-1, and by appointment

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Texts (available at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street)

Required: *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

Philosophical Investigations

Kripke: *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*

Recommended: Ray Monk: *Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius*

I will post additional readings, which may or may not be assigned, on Blackboard.

(All handouts, including paper topics, will also be posted on Blackboard.)

Course Description:

In this class, we will engage in a close reading Wittgenstein's major writings. We will begin with the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, but spend most of our time working through the *Philosophical Investigations*. Some of the main topics to be considered include: how language relates to the world; what philosophy is and what it can accomplish; the nature of understanding; what is involved in following a rule; and the phenomenon of seeing-as.

A distinctive feature of Wittgenstein's approach to philosophy is his commitment to philosophy as an activity rather than a set of doctrines. In keeping with this, the main goal of this class is for you to learn to *do* philosophy: to read closely, to grapple hard with foundational questions, and to discuss your responses seriously with others. This class is very much a seminar, and I will avoid lecturing as much as possible.

Course Requirements:

- A journal (preferably but not necessarily a computer file) containing your own questions, and your responses to those questions and to those posed by me and others. (I will post questions on Blackboard at the beginning of each week.) You should write something at least every week, preferably at least for each meeting; You'll turn in the journal 3 times during the semester (15% total).
- Three short papers, 2-3 pages, developing a question and response (15% each).
- A final paper, 8-9 pages (25% of course grade).
- Participation in discussion and office hours (15% of course grade).

Except in extreme conditions, extensions on papers must be granted well before the due date; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by Penn's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

Schedule of Readings (very tentative)

Wed 9/5	Introduction
FRI 9/7	<i>Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus</i> §§1-2
NOTE:	NO CLASS Mon 9/10 and Wed 9/12.
	Read all of <i>Tractatus</i> , Soames chapters on <i>Tractatus</i>
Mon 9/17	<i>Tractatus</i> §2-3
Wed 9/19	<i>Tractatus</i> §4
Mon 9/24	<i>Tractatus</i> §5
Wed 9/26	<i>Tractatus</i> §6
	Hand in journal; schedule appointment to discuss paper topic
Mon 10/1	<i>Investigations</i> §§1-7
Wed 10/3	<i>Investigations</i> §§8-21
Mon 10/8	<i>Investigations</i> §§22-45
	First papers due
Wed 10/10	<i>Investigations</i> §§46-59
Mon 10/15	NO CLASS
Wed 10/17	<i>Investigations</i> §§60-80
Mon 10/22	<i>Investigations</i> §§81-88
Wed 10/24	<i>Investigations</i> §§89-120
	Hand in journal; set paper topic
Mon 10/29	<i>Investigations</i> §§121-142
Wed 10/31	<i>Investigations</i> §§143-171
Mon 11/5	<i>Investigations</i> §§172-197
	Second papers due
Wed 11/7	<i>Investigations</i> §§198-242
Mon 11/12	<i>Investigations</i> §§243-257
Wed 11/14	<i>Investigations</i> §§258-298
	Hand in journal; set paper topic
Mon 11/19	<i>Investigations</i> §§299-326
Wed 11/21	<i>Investigations</i> §§327-389
Mon 11/26	<i>Investigations</i> §§390-485
Wed 11/28	<i>Investigations</i> §§486-539
	Third papers due
Mon 12/3	<i>Investigations</i> §§540-629
Wed 12/5	<i>Investigations</i> §§630-693
	Final Paper Topics Handed Out
Fri 12/14	Final Paper Due