

WITTGENSTEIN AND LATER WITTGENSTEINIANS

PHIL 7205, Fall 2010

Thursday 11-1, Collins

Professor: Dr. Stephen Grimm

Office: Collins 114

Office Hours: Thursday 2-5, and by appointment

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Course Description

This class will focus on leading philosophers who have engaged with themes from Wittgenstein's later philosophy.

Texts

Ludwig, Wittgenstein. *Major Works*. New York: Harper, 2009. (contains the Tractatus, the Blue and Brown books, and On Certainty)

Ludwig, Wittgenstein. *Philosophical Investigations*. 4th edn. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Kripke, Saul. *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1982.

Anscombe, G. E. M. *Intention*. 2nd edn. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Requirements for the Course

Précis Assignments

A 300-350 word précis of the reading (or, more likely, some part of it) will be due at the beginning of class on alternating weeks, depending whether you are in Group A

or Group B. Thus, Group A will submit their précis on Week 2, Group B on Week 3, and so on until the end of term. I will assign you to groups after the first class.

Précis will not be graded; they are meant to be an opportunity for you to think through the material more carefully, and (possibly) to test out ideas, objections, etc. for your final paper.

Further details: Please try to fit the précis on one page; use both sides of a single piece of paper if necessary. Also, **do not go over the word limit**; concision is part of the assignment. To keep track of this, please include a word count at the top of the first page.

Final Paper

A 5,000-6,000 word paper (roughly, 15-17 pages) will be due at the beginning of our final class. The topic is up to you, but you should speak to me beforehand about possible ideas so I can help you to find a manageable topic, and to point you towards relevant readings.

Grading

Your grade will be based on your final paper, though excellence in class participation will help those on the borderline of a grade.

Tentative Schedule of Readings

September

2 Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, a ridiculously quick tour

9 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (§§ 138-194) [Group A précis due]

16 Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (§§ 195-315) [Group B]

23 Saul Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (chs. 1-2) [Group A]

30: No class, SRG conference

October

7 Saul Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language* (ch. 3) [Group B]

14 Alasdair MacIntyre, "Colors, Cultures, Practices" [Blackboard] [Group A]

21 Elizabeth Anscombe, *Intention* (§§ 1-31) [Group B]

28 Elizabeth Anscombe, *Intention* (§§ 32-52) [Group A]

November

4 Peter Winch, "Understanding a Primitive Society" [Blackboard] [Group B]

11 Wittgenstein, *On Certainty* [Group A]

18 Michael Williams, "Why (Wittgensteinian) Contextualism is not Relativism"
[Blackboard] [Group B]

25: No class, Thanksgiving

December

2 Duncan Pritchard, "Epistemic Relativism, Epistemic Incommensurability, and
Wittgensteinian Epistemology" [Blackboard] [Group A]

9 Norman Malcolm, "The Groundlessness of Belief" [Blackboard] [Group B]

16 Last Day: Papers due and discussion of research projects