

# Wittgenstein

Philosophy 190  
Fall 2017  
W 1:20 – 4:20pm  
Cowell Acad, Room 216

Janette Dinishak

Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)

Office Hours: 1:00-3:00pm, Thursdays

Email: [jdinisha@ucsc.edu](mailto:jdinisha@ucsc.edu)

## Course Description

A study of Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* (1953). A major aim of this course is to cultivate the ability to carry out Wittgensteinian conceptual investigations. We will examine how Wittgenstein himself conducts his "grammatical investigations" of the concepts employed in multifarious language-games. We will begin with a brief overview of Wittgenstein's conception of the relation between language and the world in his early work, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (1921). This sketch will serve as the background to understanding Wittgenstein's criticisms of a "particular picture of the essence of human language", a picture he gleaned from Augustine's *Confessions* in the opening remarks of *Philosophical Investigations*. Some of the issues we will explore include: What is the meaning of a word? What is understanding? In what sense, if any, are sensations private? Is there a fundamental asymmetry between what one knows about one's own mental life and what one can know about the mental lives of others? What is the significance of the inability to see something *as something* (aspect-blindness) or the inability to experience the meaning of a word (meaning-blindness)?

## Evaluation:

Participation: 20%

Paper Proposal: 10%

In-class Peer Review: 10%

Paper: 60% (9-12 pgs.)

**Required Texts:** *Philosophical Investigations (PI)* by Ludwig Wittgenstein (4<sup>th</sup> revised edition);  
*How to Read Wittgenstein* by Ray Monk;  
*Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus (TLP)* by Ludwig Wittgenstein

The first two texts can be purchased at **The Literary Guillotine**.  
A free pdf version of *TLP* is available on our Canvas site.

## Other Course Information

- 1. Students with diverse learning needs are welcome in this course!** UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your "Accommodation Authorization Letter" from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, as soon as possible in the academic quarter, preferably within 1 week. I also am open to and want to encourage you to discuss with me ways I/we can ensure your full participation in this course. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to learn more about the many services offered by the DRC. You can visit their website (<http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.html>), make an appointment, and meet in-person with a DRC staff member. The phone number is 831-459-2089 or email [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).
- 2. Late assignments** are not permitted except for emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance.
- 3. All course requirements must be fulfilled.** Any student who fails to do so will not pass the course. If you're struggling to fulfill the requirements for any reason, please talk with me during my office hours about your situation.
- 4. Group and partner work.** The peer review and other class participation activities involve partner and group work outside of class. Further details about these and other assignments will be provided in seminar.

5. **Seminar Attendance and Participation.** Regular seminar attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken. *Students who miss more than one seminar meeting will receive a half letter grade reduction for each additional absence.* I take exemplary participation into account when calculating final grades.
6. **Academic integrity.** Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's statement on academic integrity (<https://registrar.ucsc.edu/navigator/section1/academic-integrity.html>) and policies and procedures regarding academic misconduct ([https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic\\_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will *not* be tolerated. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask me.

Some helpful tips can be found here: "How Not to Plagiarize":

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/images/stories/Documents/how-not-to-plagiarize.pdf>

## *Tentative* Topics Schedule

The reading schedule will be provided at our first seminar meeting.

### **Week 1 (Oct 4)**

Course intro  
TLP

### **Week 2 (Oct 11)**

TLP cont'd  
Augustinian conception of language

### **Week 3 (Oct 18)**

Augustinian conception of language cont'd

### **Week 4 (Oct 25)**

Philosophy and the philosopher's task

### **Week 5 (Nov 1)**

Understanding  
Rule-following

### **Week 6 (Nov 8)**

Rule-following cont'd  
Privacy

### **Week 7 (Nov 15)**

Privacy cont'd  
Self and Self-reference

### **Week 8 (Nov 22)**

Aspect-perception  
Experiencing the meaning of a word

**Week 9** (Nov 29)

Aspect-perception and experiencing the meaning of a word cont'd  
Ethics and ethical significance

**Week 10** (Dec 6)

Ethics and ethical significance cont'd