

Professor Elisabeth Camp

Office: 106 Somerset, Room 514

Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30, and by appointment

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Texts

Required: *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

Philosophical Investigations

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

Doxiadis: *Logicomix*

All handouts, including paper topics, will be posted on Sakai.

Course Description

In this class, we will engage in a close reading of Wittgenstein's two major writings: the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and 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; and what is involved in following a rule.

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 with foundational questions, to write clearly, and to talk seriously with others. This class is very much a seminar, and I will avoid lecturing as much as possible.

Course Requirements

- Class attendance and participation (15% of grade).
- Weekly posts on Sakai (15% of course grade).
- Three short papers, 2-3 pages (15% each).
- A final paper, 5-7 pages (25% of course grade).

You cannot participate in class if you are not **present**. Come to class, on time, with your book and having done the reading. If you must miss class for some reason, you can excuse the absence by writing an additional response.

Papers should be 'blinded' (by substituting your student ID for your name) and submitted as .pdfs through Sakai. Except in extreme conditions, extensions must be granted well before the due date, and only at my discretion; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by RU's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

If you need special accommodations because of a learning disability or for any other reason, please let me know, or have the Office of Disabilities get in touch with me.

Blog posts

You are required to post a **brief** comment (1 paragraph) for **each forum**, once a week. These are aimed to get you thinking and talking about the material before class, so we can have a richer discussion in class. I will post an opening question on Friday morning.

Posts will be graded on a 3-point scale:

- 1 point** for posting by **Sunday** night or **Wednesday** night (depending on which reading the question asks about), in a way that shows you've done the reading;
- 1 point** for being one of the first 2 posters, OR for responding to someone else's post;
- 1 point** for contributing an original thought about the question and/or material.

Number your post based on the order in which it comes in.

Schedule of Readings (only a VERY rough guide – updates in class and on Sakai)

1/21 Introduction, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* §§1-2

1/28 *Tractatus* §2-3

2/4 *Tractatus* §4

First Paper Topics Handed Out

2/11 *Tractatus* §5

FIRST PAPER DUE

2/18 *Tractatus* §6

2/25 *Tractatus* cont'd

Second Paper Topics Handed Out

3/3 *Investigations* §§1-7

SECOND PAPER DUE

3/10 *Investigations* §§8-84

3/17 SPRING BREAK

3/24 *Investigations* §§85-121

Third Paper Topics Handed Out

3/31 *Investigations* §§122-197

4/7 **No Class** (we'll attempt to reschedule)

THIRD PAPER DUE

4/14 *Investigations* §§198-242

4/21 *Investigations* §§243-298

4/28 Review and Conclusion

Final Paper Topics Handed Out

F 5/6 FINAL PAPERS DUE