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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course aims at helping students improve their philosophical thinking, reading, and writing skills. We will use Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* (§§1-315) as the main text, and read and discuss it in class very closely. We will focus on Wittgenstein's view on mind and language, though the aim of the course is not to arrive at an interpretation of Wittgenstein's view but to teach students how to philosophize. Besides Wittgenstein's view on mind and language, the course also covers some general issues about reading and writing philosophy.

## TEXTS

- Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (Blackwell, 2001)
- additional material posted on WebCT

## GRADING

Your course grade is based on the score you get out of a total of 200 points:

- (i) 40 points for attendance: you may miss 3 classes with no penalty; after that, you lose 2 point for each class you miss.
- (ii) 80 points for 4 short writing assignments: you get at most 20 points for each assignment.
- (iii) 20 points for class participation.
- (iv) 60 points for a final paper of about 2,000 words.

\* *This class has no final exam.*

### Grade conversion:

181-200 points : A    171-180 points : A-    161-170 points : B+  
 151-160 points : B    141-150 points : B-    131-140 points : C+  
 121-130 points : C    111-120 points : C-    101-110 points : D  
 100 and below : F

### Additional factors:

- (a) Late short writing assignments will not be accepted.
- (b) Extension for the final paper will not be granted unless you can prove that you really need it.
- (c) If you fail to turn in the final paper, your course grade will be marked down one full grade (e.g. from B to C). The marking down of grade is on top of the points you lose.

**Lecture Schedule**

1 <sup>st</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§1-26
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§1-26 (continued) [Simple rules on writing]
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§27-64 [Inconsistency and contradiction]
4 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§27-64 (continued) [Good and bad arguments]
5 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§65-88 [Analysis and definitions; use and mention]
6 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§65-88 (continued) [Making distinctions; vagueness and ambiguity]
7 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§89-133 [Counterexamples and thought experiments]
8 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§134-142 [Dilemmas]
9 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§143-184 [Paradoxes]
10 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§143-184 (continued) [Reductio ad absurdum]
11 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§185-242 [Burden of proof]
12 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§185-242 (continued) [The structure of a philosophical essay]
13 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§243-315 [Outlining]
14 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§243-315 (continued) [Revising and polishing]
15 <sup>th</sup> week	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§243-315 (continued) Review