

PHIL 4615/5615 (also LIN 4615) — **Introduction to Wittgenstein**
Department of Philosophy, Glendon College, York University

Winter 2017-2018, Mondays, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m., York Hall, Room B213

In this course, we shall begin by considering the (apparent) content of the *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* in the context of Wittgenstein's engagement with Frege and Russell, as well as the puzzling way in which that content is framed. We shall then spend a good deal of time on Wittgenstein's *Philosophical investigations*, perhaps with occasional glances at secondary literature. Along the way, we shall also consider some of Wittgenstein's other writings as they shed light on the two aforementioned works.

Prerequisite: Twelve credits in philosophy or consent of the instructor

Instructor: Chris Campbell Office hours: Thursdays, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
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→ Please feel free to meet with me (during office hours, or at other times by appointment) to discuss paper ideas, problems with the course material and so on.
→ I am easiest to reach by e-mail.

Books: Wittgenstein, *Tractatus logico-philosophicus*.
Wittgenstein, *Philosophical investigations*.

Course requirements: Two (graduate) or three (undergraduate) papers, lengths and due dates as below. Regular attendance and lively participation are expected. Also lots of careful reading.

Undergrad.: **30%:** First paper (1500-2000 words)
30%: Second paper (1500-2000 words)
30%: Third paper (1500-2000 words)
10%: Participation

Graduate: **30%:** First paper (6-8 pages)
60%: Second paper (15 pages)
10%: Participation

Papers are to be submitted on-line, through the course Moodle site at:
<https://eclass.glendon.yorku.ca>

→ Papers should be **properly referenced**. This means (at least) that words borrowed from another source should be signaled by quotation marks and footnotes; and that footnotes should also be used to flag **ideas and paraphrases** from other sources, even when they appear in your paper in your own words. This holds even when the source in question is a widely available reference work such as Wikipedia.

PHIL 4615/5615 — Introduction to Wittgenstein — Reading schedule
(subject to change)

I recommend that you try to read the whole *Tractatus logico-philosophicus* once through before we start talking about it in class. Then you can read through it again more slowly, more or less at the pace below—which is meant only as a rough guide.

As for the *Philosophical investigations*, it would be unreasonable to expect you to read it once through before getting started; nevertheless, the divisions below are likewise meant only as a rough guide. Discussion in class will likely follow a *more or less* linear progression through the book, but student interest and conversational happenstance (and the nature of the material: cf. the Preface!) may cause us to stray from the schedule below.

The course Moodle site, where you can find “Some remarks on logical form” and “A lecture on ethics,” is at <https://eclass.glendon.yorku.ca>.

Week 1	Introduction	(no reading assigned)
Week 2	<i>Tractatus logico-philosophicus</i>	Preface; §§1 - 3.5
Week 3		§§4 - 4.53
Week 4		§§5 - 5.5571
Week 5		§§5.6 – 7
Week 6	Transitional period	“Some remarks on logical form” “A lecture on ethics” (both available through Moodle)
		Winter reading week: NO CLASS
Week 7	<i>Philosophical investigations</i>	Preface; §§1 – 65
Week 8		§§66 – 133
Week 9		§§134 – 242
Week 10		§§243 – 317
Week 11		§§318 - 693 [to the extent that this is manageable]
Week 12		“Philosophy of psychology: A fragment” (otherwise known as <i>Philosophical investigations</i> , Part II) [<i>ditto</i>]