

Professor Elisabeth Camp

*Office:* 426 Cohen Hall

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays 12-2 and by appointment

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Texts (available at the Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34<sup>th</sup> Street)

**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 Blackboard.

### Course Description

In this class, we will engage in a close reading of Wittgenstein's 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; what is involved in following a rule; and the phenomenon of seeing-as.

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 participation (15% of grade).
- Weekly posts on Blackboard (15% of course grade).
- Three short papers, 2-3 pages (15% each).
- A final paper, 7-8 pages (25% of course grade).

I will post discussion questions on Blackboard each week. Before each class, you should make sure you at least understand what all of the questions mean, and why I've asked them. In addition, you should post a short (1 paragraph) response to one of the numbered questions (not just a sub-question) on Blackboard.

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.

Except in extreme conditions, extensions on papers must be granted well before the due date; otherwise, late papers will be downgraded 1/3 letter grade per day.

You are expected to be familiar with and to abide by Penn's policy on academic and intellectual integrity: [upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic\\_integrity\\_code\\_of](http://upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic_integrity_code_of)

## Schedule of Readings (only a rough guide – updates in class and on Blackboard)

- W 1/11 Introduction
- W 1/18 *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* §§1-2  
M 1/23 *Tractatus* §2-3  
W 1/25 *Tractatus* §4  
M 1/30 *Tractatus* §5  
W 2/1 *Tractatus* §6  
**First Paper Topics Handed Out**
- M 2/6 *Tractatus* cont'd  
W 2/8 *Tractatus* cont'd
- M 2/13 *Investigations* §§1-8  
**FIRST PAPER DUE**
- W 2/15 *Investigations* §§8-21  
M 2/20 *Investigations* §§22-36  
W 2/22 *Investigations* §§36-64  
M 2/27 *Investigations* §§65-84  
W 2/29 *Investigations* §§85-122  
**Second Paper Topics Handed Out**
- 3/5-7 SPRING BREAK**
- M 3/12 *Investigations* §§122-142  
W 3/14 *Investigations* §§143-171  
M 3/19 *Investigations* §§172-197  
**SECOND PAPER DUE**
- W 3/21 *Investigations* §§198-242  
M 3/26 *Investigations* §§243-257  
W 3/28 *Investigations* §§258-298  
M 4/2 *Investigations* §§299-389  
**Third Paper Topics Handed Out**
- W 4/4 *Investigations* §§390-485  
M 4/9 *Investigations* §§486-539  
W 4/11 *Investigations* §§540-629  
M 4/16 *Investigations* §§630-693  
**THIRD PAPER DUE**
- W 4/18 *Investigations* Pt. 2, i-x  
M 4/23 *Investigations* Pt. 2, xi-xiv  
W 4/25 Review and Conclusion  
**Final Paper Topics Handed Out**
- W 5/8 **FINAL PAPERS DUE**