

PH3C3-15 Problems from Wittgenstein

24/25

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Johannes Roessler

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The proposed module aims to fill a significant lacuna in our current teaching of 20th century philosophy, by introducing students to some of the central concerns of Wittgenstein's later philosophy, spanning the philosophy of language, the philosophy of mind and action, epistemology, ethics, anthropology and the philosophy of religion.

Module aims

The module aims to introduce students to central philosophical problems and arguments in Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations and some other later works. The module will fill out some of the the historical background of these concerns, bring out their philosophical significance and enable students critically to engage with them. The main method will be interactive lectures and seminars.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Lecture Schedule

Week 1.

The Augustinian picture of meaning

Week 2.

Meaning and Use

Week 3.

Understanding and Rule-Following

Week 4.

The Possibility of a Private Language

Week 5.

Aspect Perception

Week 6. No lectures

Week 7.

The First Person

Week 8.

Certainty

Week 9.

Rituals

Week 10.

Ethics and Religion

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- interpret Wittgenstein's later writings in the context of the later Wittgenstein's general approach to philosophical problems.
- understand the significance of central questions to which Wittgenstein's later philosophy is addressed, including questions about the nature of meaning, mind, normativity and certainty.
- make sense of the later Wittgenstein's central ideas and arguments concerning such topics as meaning, mind, normativity and certainty .
- engage critically with Wittgenstein's (and his commentators') claims.

Indicative reading list

L. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, tr. by G.E.M. Anscombe, Oxford: Blackwell, 1953.

L. Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Occasions 1912-1951*, Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 1993.

W. Child, *Wittgenstein*. London: Routledge, 2011.

W. Goldfarb, 'I Want You to Bring Me a Slab: Remarks on the Opening Sections of the "Philosophical Investigations"', *Synthese* 57 (1983), 265-282.

B. Stroud, *Meaning, Understanding and Practice: Philosophical Essays*. Oxford: OUP, 2000.

J. McDowell, 'Wittgenstein on following a rule', *Synthese* 58 (1984), 325-363.

- M. McGinn, *The Routledge Guidebook to Wittgenstein's Philosophical investigations*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- O. Kuusela & M. McGinn (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Wittgenstein*. Oxford: OUP, 2011.
- M. Luntley, *Opening Investigations*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2015.
- S. Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982.

Subject specific skills

- (i) The ability to understand philosophical issues and arguments that figure in the background to contemporary work.
- (ii) The ability to critically engage with philosophical ideas and arguments;
- (iii) The ability to articulate philosophical issues and arguments;
- (iv) The ability to read historical philosophical texts, including an ability to understand and explain technical philosophical vocabulary from these historical texts, an awareness of debates about the historical context of these texts, and of debates about interpretation of certain key terms.

Transferable skills

- (i) The ability to communicate information (verbally and in written form) to people both expert and non-expert in the field.
 - (ii) The ability to analyse, evaluate, critique and apply complex information gathered from reading, reflection, reasoning or communication.
 - (iii) The ability to effectively manage schedules and deadlines.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time
contribution in learning activities (seminars)	20%	
contributions in learning activities (seminars)		
2500 word essay	80%	

Assessment group R

	Weighting	Study time
3000 word essay	100%	

Feedback on assessment

Individual written feedback will be provided on the 2500 word assessed essays.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- TPHA-V7L1 Postgraduate Taught Philosophy, Politics and Economics: Tripartite
 - Year 2 of V7L1 Philosophy, Politics and Economics: Tripartite
 - Year 3 of V7L1 Philosophy, Politics and Economics: Tripartite
- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
 - Year 2 of L1CF Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Tripartite Pathway)
 - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy

- Year 3 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
- Year 3 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
- Year 3 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
- Year 3 of L1CF Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Tripartite Pathway)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 2 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 3 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law