BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Alumni Course
Autumn 2020
Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations</td>
<td>BASC50053 - 20A1</td>
<td>10 WEEKS</td>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE SCHEDULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>DAYS: Thursdays</td>
<td>No class November 26</td>
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<td>TIMES: 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.</td>
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INSTRUCTOR: Charles Thomas Elder
PHONE: 773-256-1782
EMAIL: celder@uchicago.edu

GRAHAM SCHOOL INFORMATION
PHONE: 773.702.1722
WEBSITE: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu

PREREQUISITES: Two years of the Basic Program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students should register before the course begins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A close reading of Wittgenstein’s seminal—and enormously influential—work, Philosophical Investigations. We will read and discuss the text sentence by sentence, section by section—and continue for as long as it takes to get through (at least) Part I (that portion which Wittgenstein himself prepared for publication).

Consistent with Wittgenstein’s own recommendation, the point of such a reading is not only to learn to think differently about fundamental philosophical problems but still more importantly to see these problems differently—i.e., to see them not as problems to be resolved but confusions to be clarified, and to develop a certain sensibility to these confusions. We may occasionally supplement the reading of the Investigations with readings from other sources, both Wittgenstein and commentaries.

The class should appeal to anyone who either enjoys philosophical thinking or who wants to be freed from the compulsion to think philosophically.

For the first meeting, please read the Preface and skim the opening sections.

REQUIRED TEXT

## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| Week 1  
Date: Oct. 1 | Wittgenstein | Preface; begin Part I |
| Week 2  
Date: Oct. 8 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 3  
Date: Oct. 15 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 4  
Date: Oct. 22 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 5  
Date: Oct. 29 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 6  
Date: Nov. 5 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 7  
Date: Nov. 12 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 8  
Date: Nov. 19 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 9  
Date: Dec. 3 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |
| Week 10  
Date: Dec. 10 | Wittgenstein | Continue reading |

This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

### CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

### DISABILITY INFORMATION
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.