Wittgenstein studies (Lecture course FIL217, FIL317)

Alois Pichler, Simo Säätelä (Dep. of Philosophy)

University of Bergen, Dep. of Philosophy, Autumn 2014

Time: Wednesdays 12.15-14.00 (first meeting August 20, last meeting November 19)
Place: Sydnesplassen 12-13, Undervisningsrom 215

Course description

This course will provide an introduction to the philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein. In addition to giving a general overview of his philosophical work and addressing the question of the relationship between his "early" and "late" philosophy, we will focus on a number of central Wittgensteinian themes such as the picture theory, meaning, language-games, family resemblance, rule-following, the private language argument, the relation between the "inner" and the "outer", mathematics, certainty, art and aesthetics, ethics, and the nature of philosophy.

Course plan

AP = Alois Pichler
SS = Simo Säätelä

1. AP&SS-Aug 20: Wittgenstein: Nachlass and work(s) [Kenny 2006]; Problems of the Tractatus [Child ch. 2]
2. SS-Aug 27: Problems of the Tractatus [Child ch. 2]

NB Week 36: Visit by Professor Peter Hacker!
- Sep 1: Peter Hacker, "Philosophy and neuroscience"
- Sep 2: Peter Hacker, "The nature of consciousness"

3. AP-Sep 3: The picture theory [Child ch.2-3]
4. AP-Sep 10: From the Tractatus to language games, family resemblance and practice [Child ch. 4]
5. AP-Sep 17: Reading the Philosophical Investigations

NB Week 39: Visit by Professor Julia Tanney!
- Sep 23: Julia Tanney, "Ryle on Thinking: A Peg for Some Thoughts"
- Sep 25: Julia Tanney, "Subtracting my arm’s going up from my raising my arm: Wittgenstein and Ryle on the ‘thickness’ of Action"

6. SS-Sep 24: Family resemblance and language games; The Philosophical Investigations
7. SS-Oct 1: Rule-following [Child ch. 5]

NB Week 41: Autumn break, no lecture

8. SS-Oct 15: Inner and Outer; The private language argument [Candlish & Wrisley 2010, Child ch. 6]
11. AP-Nov 5: Certainty [Child ch. 7, Moyal-Sharrock 2010]
**Reading list**

**Primary sources**

- Lectures on Aesthetics. In: Lectures & Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief. Ed. C. Barrett. (40 p.) [Relevant parts will be distributed]
- Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus. (103 p.) [We recommend the Bazzocchi edition on http://www.bazzocchi.net/wittgenstein/tractatus/it/index.htm]

In addition [Relevant parts will be distributed]:

**Secondary sources**

**Coursebook**


**Articles and talks**

- K. Cahill (forthc.): "Tractarian Ethics". [Will be distributed]


Recommended reference work