

Philosophy 442/542: The Later Wittgenstein and his Interpreters

The main aim of this course will be to read carefully and critically the entirety of the late Wittgenstein's most important (and most finished) book, the *Philosophical Investigations* (published posthumously in 1953). We will consider Wittgenstein's distinctive vision of, and challenge to, philosophy as both are grounded in the characteristic linguistic-“grammatical” methods of the *Investigations*, the organization of the book as a whole as a “number of sketches of landscapes...made in the course of ...long and meandering journeys”, and the distinctive, profound and transformative conception of language, mind, and meaning that guides these journeys through and in the development of Wittgenstein's clarifying critical reflection on our “complicated form of life”. In the last weeks of the course, we will take up some of the main themes and engagements of the development of Wittgenstein's vision and project in the work of Stanley Cavell and Cora Diamond, two of his most insightful recent interpreters.

Work for the course will consist in: weekly reading and 1-2 page weekly response papers, attendance and participation in seminar discussions, and a final paper of 10-20 pages.