

## Ludwig Wittgenstein: The Cambridge Years (1929-1951)

---

**Start date** 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**End date** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018

**Venue** Maddingley Hall  
Maddingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Dr. Alexander Carter

**Course code** 1718NRX066

**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this  
course, please contact**

Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

---

### Tutor biography

Dr. Alex Carter was awarded his PhD in Philosophy by the University of Essex in 2015. Before this, Alex studied Philosophy & Ancient History at the University of Wales, Swansea and Philosophy at the University of Bristol. Alex has taught on a range of subjects including Ethics, History of Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. He has worked at the Institute of Continuing Education since 2015 as Academic Director for Philosophy and as a Panel Tutor.

Alex's teaching method invites students to feel the "pain of the problem", i.e. to recognise the very real ways in which philosophical problems affect our lives. Accordingly, Alex is most keen to offer his support to philosophical projects that, not only inform contemporary debates, but actively affect change. Alex's ongoing research interests include the theology of Simone Weil and Ludwig Wittgenstein's ethical philosophy.

---

## Course programme

---

### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	<b>"Do you think I am mad?" – From Engineering to Philosophy</b>
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<b>"I have solved all of the problems of Philosophy...Oh, hang on!"</b>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Meaning as Use</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Ordinary Language Philosophy</b>
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	<b>A Fireside Chat about Wittgenstein's Ethics (no pokers please)</b>
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Wittgenstein's Ethics</b>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Storey's End: Wittgenstein's Legacy</b>
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

---

## Course syllabus

---

### Aims:

This course seeks to uncover and illuminate the key aspects of Wittgenstein's so-called 'Later' philosophy. By examining, not just Wittgenstein's words, but also the events surrounding them, we will come to better appreciate what is, for many, the most important contribution to Philosophy since Kant.

### Content:

By way of introduction to Wittgenstein's philosophy, we will begin by examining the events and ideas that led up to Wittgenstein's initial visits to Trinity College to meet Bertrand Russell and ultimately his return to Cambridge in 1929. On Saturday we will examine the shift in Wittgenstein's philosophy, from his early writings in the *Tractatus* to his later writings in the *Investigations*. As well as the many important philosophical changes that took place during this period, we shall also reflect on those things that did not change, in particular Wittgenstein's ethical thought.

We will also critically assess what, for many, are Wittgenstein's most important contributions to philosophy. As we shall see, these contributions, whilst influential, are also often based on misinterpretations of his thought. On Saturday evening we will pause for an informal, philosophical discussion (or "fireside chat") similar to reported conversations between Wittgenstein and his contemporaries. These discussions were often heated, and Wittgenstein was not above brandishing a poker to make his point. We will make do with words. In our final sessions on Sunday we will look in more detail at Wittgenstein's ethical philosophy, a much-underrated aspect of his thought and, as we shall see, the main driving force behind his philosophy.

### Presentation of the course:

The Weekend Course will be comprised of formal lectures incorporating interactive presentations and discussion sessions. At the end of each session, and throughout, students will be invited to reflect, comment and pass judgement on the ideas introduced.

### As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- have a better understanding of the life and thought of Cambridge's most illustrious, and most enigmatic, philosopher.
- acknowledge Wittgenstein's impact on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Philosophy and popular culture.
- identify key features of Wittgenstein's philosophy, as well as influential misinterpretations and reinterpretations of his thought.
- recognise and employ philosophical techniques and knowledge in a variety of circumstances.

---

## Reading and resources list

---

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
David Edmonds & John Eldinow	<i>Wittgenstein's Poker</i>	Faber & Faber, 2014
A. C. Grayling	<i>Wittgenstein: A Very Short Introduction</i>	OUP, 2001
Ray Monk	<i>The Duty of Genius</i>	Random House, 2012
Meredith Williams (Ed.)	<i>Wittgenstein' Philosophical Investigations: Critical Essays</i>	Rowman & Littlefield, 2007
Ludwig Wittgenstein	<i>Culture &amp; Value</i>	University of Chicago Press, 1984
Ludwig Wittgenstein	<i>Lectures and Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology and Religious Belief</i>	University of a California Press, 2007
Ludwig Wittgenstein	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i>	Wiley, 2010

### Website addresses

- Stanford Encyclopaedia entry - <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/wittgenstein/#LateWitt>
- *Philosophy Now* "The Private Language Argument" - [https://philosophynow.org/issues/58/The\\_Private\\_Language\\_Argument](https://philosophynow.org/issues/58/The_Private_Language_Argument)

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 21 September 2017