PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Bob Plant
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Paula Sweeney
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Office hours: Tuesday, 3-4pm
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Miss Lisa Roberts
50-52 College Bounds
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TIMETABLE
Lectures: Tuesday, 12-1.30, MR302 (MacRobert)
Level 3 Tutorial: Friday, 9.30-11, C24 (Taylor)
Level 4 Seminar: Friday, 2-3.30, CB203 (50/52 College Bounds)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
We will discuss the later work of one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century: Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951). In the first half of the course we will focus on selected passages from *Philosophical Investigations*, in which Wittgenstein undermines many of our opinions and theories regarding meaning and language, self-knowledge and action. In the second half of the course we will turn our attention to developments and applications of Wittgenstein’s later work specifically, in relation to religious belief and certainty. Key primary texts we will look at are ‘Lectures on Religious Belief’, ‘Remarks on Frazer’s *Golden Bough*, *Culture and Value* and *On Certainty*.

LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME
The first half of this course will focus on issues regarding language and meaning arising from Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*. In particular, we will engage with Wittgenstein’s investigations into the nature of:

- Meaning and ostensive definition
- Games and family resemblance
- Rule-following
- Private Language
In the second half of this course we will take a look at Wittgenstein’s various remarks on religious belief – a topic that preoccupied him throughout his adult life. Our main focus will be on Wittgenstein’s later work. The topics we will cover is as follows:

- Wittgenstein, Philosophy and Biography: A Religious Point of View?
- Religion, Wonder and Nonsense
- The Language of Religion
- The Magical Practices of ‘Primitives’
- Religion and Groundless Belief

A list of all the required readings, a bibliography for further reading, and additional material (e.g. tutorial/seminar questions) will be provided on MyAberdeen.

The main text for the first half of the course will be the *Philosophical Investigations*. Essential sections will be made available on MyAberdeen. Some copies of the book are available in the library. If you want your own copy, buy the revised 4th edition edited by P.M.S. Hacker & J Schulte, Blackwell 2009. A good secondary book, if you are looking for one, is Marie McGinn’s *Wittgenstein and the Philosophical Investigations*, 2nd edition, Routledge 2013.

There is no required textbook for the second half of the course, and all the required readings will be provided on MyAberdeen (or linked to if available on the Web). However, if you want to spend some money, a good choice would be Brian Clack’s *An Introduction to Wittgenstein’s Philosophy of Religion* (Edinburgh UP). There should be some copies in Blackwells. (There are also some in Heavy Demand in the Library.)

**ASSESSMENT**

Level 3 students:
1 x 2500 word essay (50%) plus 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)
(Resit- 1 x 2 hour written exam)

Level 4 students:
1 x 3500 word essay (50%) plus 1 x 2 hour exam (40%) plus seminar presentation (10%)
(No resit)
Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).
Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

ESSAYS

Essay word length includes quotations and footnotes, but not bibliography. Students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too short or too long.

Details regarding essay, such as essay questions and essay deadline, will be made available on MyAberdeen.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

The assessment deadline is to be confirmed during the first weeks of the course.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one electronic copy to Turnitin via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.

Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION

Examination details will be confirmed via MyAberdeen. Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/