

THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Wittgenstein and the Philosophy of Mathematics (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0422

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

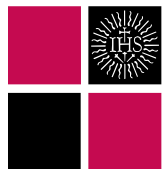
Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to:

- Be able to give a general overview of Wittgenstein's treatment of central problems in philosophy of mathematics;
- Be able to apply Wittgenstein's method to problems in philosophy of mathematics;
- Show the ability to critically reflect on the wider cultural and existential import of Wittgenstein's way of working with topics in philosophy of mathematics.

Course content

Ludwig Wittgenstein, one of the 20th century's most influential and discussed philosophers, once said that his chief contribution had been in the philosophy of mathematics. Yet this aspect of his thought remains largely unknown. In this course, we consider his lectures and writings on mathematics through the classic book *Wittgenstein's Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics* and through Wittgenstein's own *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics*.



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Teaching and examination

Teaching and examination when partially distance-based

Instruction will be in the form of online teaching and two full days of local meetings.

Examination will be in the form of a final paper (1500-2000 words).

Bibliography

Wittgenstein, L. (1983) *Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics*. Revised edition. Edited by G.E.M. Anscombe, R. Rhees and G.H. von Wright. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press

Wittgenstein, L. (1989) *Wittgenstein's Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics, Cambridge, 1939*. Edited by C. Diamond. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Articles provided digitally during the teaching period for a total of around 30 pages.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2026-01-15