



Samir Okasha

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OF SCIENCE
A Very Short Introduction

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What Is Philosophy A Short Introduction:

Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction Edward Craig, 2002-02-21 How ought we to live What really exists How do we know This book introduces important themes in ethics knowledge and the self via readings from Plato Hume Descartes Hegel Darwin and Buddhist writers It emphasizes throughout the point of doing philosophy explains how different areas of philosophy are related and explores the contexts in which philosophy was and is done ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction Samir Okasha, 2002-05-30 What is science Is there a real difference between science and myth Is science objective Can science explain everything This Very Short Introduction provides a concise overview of the main themes of contemporary philosophy of science Beginning with a short history of science to set the scene Samir Okasha goes on to investigate the nature of scientific reasoning scientific explanation revolutions in science and theories such as realism and anti realism He also looks at philosophical issues in particular sciences including the problem of classification in biology and the nature of space and time in physics The final chapter touches on the conflicts between science and religion and explores whether science is ultimately a good thing ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable *What is Philosophy?* Elmer Sprague, 1961 Ancient Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction Julia Annas, 2000-10-12 The tradition of ancient philosophy is a long rich and varied one in which a constant note is that of discussion and argument This book introduces readers to some ancient debates to engage with the ancient developments of some themes Getting away from the presentation of ancient philosophy as a succession of Great Thinkers the book gives readers a sense of the freshness and liveliness of ancient philosophy and of its wide variety of themes and styles ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable *Philosophical Method: A Very Short Introduction* Timothy Williamson, 2020-08-27 What are philosophers trying to achieve How can they succeed Does philosophy make progress Is it in competition with science or doing something completely different or neither Timothy Williamson tackles some of the key questions surrounding philosophy in new and provocative ways showing how philosophy begins in common sense curiosity and develops through our capacity to dispute rationally with each other Discussing philosophy s ability to clarify our thoughts he explains why such clarification depends

on the development of philosophical theories and how those theories can be tested by imaginative thought experiments and compared against each other by standards similar to those used in the natural and social sciences He also shows how logical rigour can be understood as a way of enhancing the explanatory power of philosophical theories Drawing on the history of philosophy to provide a track record of philosophical thinking s successes and failures Williams overturns widely held dogmas about the distinctive nature of philosophy in comparison to the sciences demystifies its methods and considers the future of the discipline From thought experiments to deduction to theories this Very Short Introduction will cause you to totally rethink what philosophy is ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Previously published in hardback as *Doing Philosophy* [Philosophy of Biology](#) Samir Okasha,2019-11-28 Over the last forty years the philosophy of biology has emerged as an important sub discipline of the philosophy of science Covering some of science s most divisive topics such as philosophical issues in genetics it also encompasses areas where modern biology has increasingly impinged on traditional philosophical questions such as free will essentialism and nature vs nurture In this Very Short Introduction Samir Okasha outlines the core issues with which contemporary philosophy of biology is engaged Offering a whistle stop tour of the history of biology he explores key ideas and paradigm shifts throughout the centuries including areas such as the theory of evolution by natural selection the concepts of function and design biological individuality and the debate over adaptationism Throughout Okasha makes clear the relevance of biology for understanding human beings human society and our place in the natural world and the importance of engaging with these issues ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable *Presocratic Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* Catherine Osborne,2004-04-22 A lively and thematic treatment of early Greek philosophy this work discusses the invention of western philosophy the first thinkers to explore ideas about the nature of reality time and the origin of the universe *Metaphysics* Stephen Mumford,2012-08-30 Metaphysics is one of the traditional four main branches of philosophy alongside ethics logic and epistemology It is also an area that continues to attract and hold a fascination for many people yet it is associated with being complex and abstract For some it is associated with the mystical or religious For others it is known through the metaphysical poets who talk of love and spirituality This Very Short Introduction goes right to the heart of the matter getting to the basic and most important questions of metaphysical thought in order to understand the theory What are objects Do colours and shapes have some form of existence What is it for one thing to cause another rather than just being associated with it What is

possible Does time pass By using these questions to initiate thought about the basic issues around substance properties changes causes possibilities time personal identity nothingness and emergentism Stephen Mumford provides a clear and simple path through this analytical tradition at the core of philosophical thought ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable **What Does It All Mean?** Thomas Nagel,1987-10-15

In this cogent and accessible introduction to philosophy the distinguished author of Mortal Questions and The View From Nowhere brings the central problems of philosophical inquiry to life demonstrating why they have continued to fascinate and baffle thinkers across the centuries Leading students into the consideration of nine philosophical questions he states his own opinions but leaves the issues open encouraging students to think for themselves about these fundamental problems **Political Philosophy** David Miller,2003-06-26

This book introduces readers to the concepts of political philosophy It starts by explaining why the subject is important and how it tackles basic ethical questions such as how should we live together in society It looks at political authority the reasons why we need politics at all the limitations of politics and whether there are areas of life that shouldn't be governed by politics It explores the connections between political authority and justice a constant theme in political philosophy and the ways in which social justice can be used to regulate rather than destroy a market economy David Miller discusses why nations are the natural units of government and whether the rise of multiculturalism and transnational co operation will change this will we ever see the formation of a world government ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Objectivity Stephen Gaukroger,2012-05-24 Is objectivity possible Can there be objectivity in matters of morals or tastes What would a truly objective account of the world be like Is everything subjective or relative Are moral judgments objective or culturally relative Objectivity is both an essential and elusive philosophical concept An account is generally considered to be objective if it attempts to capture the nature of the object studied without judgement of a conscious entity or subject Objectivity stands in contrast to subjectivity an objective account is impartial one which could ideally be accepted by any subject because it does not draw on any assumptions prejudices or values of particular subjects Stephen Gaukroger shows that it is far from clear that we can resolve moral or aesthetic disputes in this way and it has often been argued that such an approach is not always appropriate for disciplines that deal with human rather than natural phenomena Moreover even in those cases where we seek to be objective it may be difficult to judge what a truly objective account would look like and whether it is achievable This Very Short Introduction demonstrates that there are a number of common misunderstandings

about what objectivity is and explores the theoretical and practical problems of objectivity by assessing the basic questions raised by it As well as considering the core philosophical issues Gaukroger also deals with the way in which particular understandings of objectivity impinge on social research science and art ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Plato Julia Annas,2003-02-13 This introduction to Plato focuses on the philosophy and argument of his writings drawing the reader into Plato s way of doing philosophy and the general themes of his thinking It includes a brief account of Plato s life

Reality: A Very Short Introduction Jan Westerhoff,2011-11-24 What is real has been one of the key questions of philosophy since its beginning in antiquity But it is not just a question that philosophers ask This Very Short Introduction discusses what reality is by looking at a variety of arguments theories and thought experiments from philosophy physics and cognitive science

Idea of Continental Philosophy Simon Glendinning,2006-06-12 The idea of Continental Philosophy has never been properly explained in philosophical terms In this short and engaging book Simon Glendinning attempts finally to succeed where others have failed although not by giving an account of its internal unity but by showing instead why no such account can be given Providing a clear picture of the current state of the contemporary philosophical culture Glendinning traces the origins and development of the idea of a distinctive Continental tradition critiquing current attempts to survey the field of contemporary philosophy

Wittgenstein: A Very Short Introduction A. C. Grayling,2001-02-22 Ludwig Wittgenstein 1889 1951 was an extraordinarily original philosopher whose influence on twentieth century thinking goes well beyond philosophy itself In this book which aims to make Wittgenstein s thought accessible to the general non specialist reader A C Grayling explains the nature and impact of Wittgenstein s views He describes both his early and later philosophy the differences and connections between them and gives a fresh assessment of Wittgenstein s continuing influence on contemporary thought

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John of Damascus, First Apologist to the Muslims Daniel J. Janosik,2016-11-08 Much of the world today is convulsed in an epic struggle between the Christian West and Islam Scholars seeking to understand the issues look back in history to unearth the roots of this conflict Of great value in this effort are the writings of an eyewitness a devoted Christian who served as chief financial officer of the Umayyad Empire and wrote at the time Islam was developing John of Damascus 675 750 authored two major works the Heresy of the Ishmaelites and the Disputation between a Christian and a Saracen to provide an apologetic response to Islam from a Christian perspective His writings shed light on many questions that are pertinent today When was

the Qur'an actually written What was the role of the powerful caliph Abd al Malik in the making of Muhammad How did the theological issues related to the deity of Christ and the Trinity develop in the early days of Islam This book delves into the life of John and studies his apologetic writings in detail utilizing the first English translation from the critical text It seeks to address these questions thoughtfully provide valuable insights from the past and then equip today's church as it engages with Islam

Abraham's Dice Karl W. Giberson, 2016-04-18 Most of us believe everything happens for a reason Whether it is God's will karma or fate we want to believe that nothing in the world especially disasters and tragedies is a random meaningless event But now as never before confident scientific assertions that the world embodies a profound contingency are challenging theological claims that God acts providentially in the world The random and meandering path of evolution is widely used as an argument that God did not create life Abraham's Dice explores the interplay between chance and providence in the monotheistic religious traditions looking at how their interaction has been conceptualized as our understanding of the workings of nature has changed This lively historical conversation has generated intense ongoing theological debates and provocative responses from science what are we to make of the history of our universe where chance and law have played out in complex ways Or the evolution of life where random mutations have challenged attempts to find purpose within evolution and convinced many that human beings are but a glorious accident The enduring belief that everything happens for a reason is examined through a conversation with major scholars among them holders of prestigious chairs at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the University of Basel as well as several Gifford lecturers and two Templeton prize winners Organized historically Abraham's Dice provides a wide ranging scientific theological and biblical foundation to address the question of providence and divine action in a world shot through with contingency

How Great Thinkers Transformed Our Ideas C C Hagan, 2024-05-08 Dare to think This was the catch cry of the Enlightenment over 300 years ago when the breakaway from religion towards a more secular society began Isaac Newton led the Scientific Revolution which transformed society for the next 300 years with progress not then dreamed of Stephen Hawking revealed a new cosmology and linked Einstein's relativity to small scale quantum mechanics Yet what was the mind set of Newton's age compared to Hawking's age What were the changes in the mind sets of society and philosophy during those 300 years and were they all linked to science This book represents a slice of the history of ideas science and philosophy mixed with their personal lives against how science mathematics and philosophy evolved over those 300 years Revealed are the truly astonishing stories and ideas of five of the greatest thinkers who ever lived who provided us rich insights into the cosmos Their stories class them as true founders of scientific revolutions battlers with feats of endurance and triumphs to rise to great heights Through the personal tragedies of Curie and Hawking to the intellectual battles fought by Einstein Newton and Leibniz these five scientists inspire us and enrich our ideas

Medieval Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction John Marenbon, 2016-01-28 For many of us the term medieval philosophy conjures up the figure of Thomas Aquinas and is closely

intertwined with religion In this Very Short Introduction John Marenbon shows how medieval philosophy had a far broader reach than the thirteenth and fourteenth century universities of Christian Europe and is instead one of the most exciting and diversified periods in the history of thought Introducing the coexisting strands of Christian Muslim and Jewish philosophy Marenbon shows how these traditions all go back to the Platonic schools of late antiquity and explains the complex ways in which they are interlinked Providing an overview of some of the main thinkers such as Boethius Abelard al F r b Avicenna Maimonides and Gersonides and the topics institutions and literary forms of medieval philosophy he discusses in detail some of the key issues in medieval thought universals mind body and mortality foreknowledge and freedom society and the best life ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable *International Journal of Ethics* ,1925 Includes section Book reviews

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