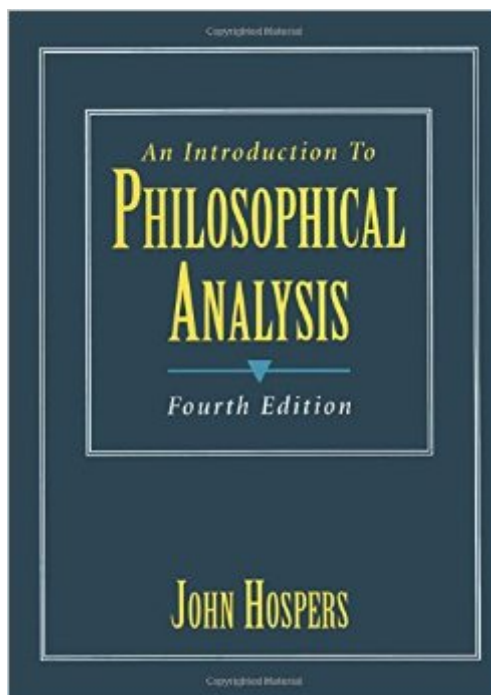


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An Introduction To Philosophical Analysis (4th Edition)



Synopsis

This book provides an in-depth, problem-oriented introduction to philosophical analysis using an extremely clear, readable approach. The Fourth Edition does not only update coverage throughout the book, but also restores the introductory chapter "Words and the World" the most distinguished, widely acclaimed feature of the first two editions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have read the second and third editions of this book, but not the latest (the fourth), nor have I examined the fourth edition, but I am sure that it respects the fine didactic quality of the prior editions. The author though has decreased the page count since the second edition, which was over 500 pages, to the third, which was 416 pages, to this one, which reads as 282 pages. I thought the second edition was better than the third, because it was more in-depth in its coverage. The author possibly feels that many of the philosophical problems which he addressed with more detail in prior editions do not need the coverage they do in this one. The author though is a fine writer, and this book is written for the person first taking up philosophy. His informal style effectively relates the issues at hand without getting the beginning reader into too much heavy formalism. All of the issues discussed by the author are of enormous importance for living, especially in the twenty-first century which I see as a testing ground for many of these. Philosophy is making its way to the meeting rooms of industry, due to the need for ethical considerations in medicine and genetic engineering, the role of virtual and simulation environments currently used in industry, and the continuing rapid advances in artificial intelligence, to name just a few. Many, many more new philosophical problems

will arise as technology races ahead, and the new minds of the twenty-first century, both natural and artificial, will have their own unique viewpoints on the solutions to these problems.

Hospers's "An Introduction to Philosophical Analysis" was the text for a philosophy course I took a long time ago -- 1965. I have had kept it in my library ever since. It serves me as a reference and periodic refresher on the terminology and principle issues of Western philosophy. If you keep forgetting the true meaning of ontology, deism, epiphenomenalism, the emotive theory of ethics, etc., this is the book for you. If you get into arguments in any of these areas, buy this book! Hospers uses practical examples from everyday life and mixes in some clever wit here and there.

John Hospers has retired from his professorship at a major university, but his impact will continue to be felt in generations to come. He is truly one of the giants in American philosophy. His works are standard textbooks in colleges across the land, and his students will be influencing American thought forever. His books are musts for anyone wanting to understand philosophy.

As a beginner and amateur in this area, I found this book to be extremely interesting and informative. In an informal and light style, uncharacteristic of the philosophy books, the author gives you a very comprehensive introduction of the most fundamental issues in philosophy. Apart from its narrative style, what I liked about this book was its organization. Putting the chapter on 'language and reality' right in the beginning of the book is a great help both for beginning students and amateurs. It clears up a lot of issues that would otherwise have caused a lot of confusion later on. Unlike many other philosophy books that would discuss religion in their first chapter, mostly to get it out of the way, this author postpones this discussion to the end to ensure that you have the requisite knowledge of the fundamentals of language, logic, epistemology before you enter into this debate. Another strong point is its unbiased discussion of most issues. For the most part, the book simply lays out different theories and points of views about any issue, with their strengths and weaknesses and lets you draw your own conclusions.

Just an unbelievably clear, well-written, well organized treatment of all the major philosophical issues. Short but surprisingly thorough. The perfect introduction to philosophy. And often funny. In discussing immortality and the beliefs people have about their embodiment in heaven, he has a woman, contemplating reuniting with her husband in the afterlife, wondering, "Will he still be overweight?"

This work is one of long standing and remains (as updated) an excellent introduction to the essentials of logic and its application to everyday talk and reasoning. I would highly recommend it for all newbies to the topic and the practice of "talking sense"!

In the world of philosophy, which I must admit my knowledge of has solely come from John Hospers, the author of this book and a dabble or two in Plato and Bacon, good gritty language and a humorous remark or two can take you a long way. Fortunately John has gone well past these primitive tools in authorship to give the reader an objective view on Philosophical analysis. By far my heaviest read in the humanities, this is not a Sunday afternoon read. To read a book such as this, it leaves one pondering themselves on the questions most people had never thought to answer. This makes the reader feel the subject is serious however far from laborious. John's approach in this sense is remarkable in that the wordage used is as concise as possible however with the daring to use personal style in conveying the real message. Philosophy isn't a chore. John makes this evident. There are no definite answers. A message I personally felt throughout the book. There are labels for the definite, there are approaches for the definite truth, with obstacles such as ethics, scepticism, morals, and the ethos of religion to further enhance the need to ask. To ask and re-ask new questions to open new vistas and mental opportunities in life. While you may truly fervour your beliefs, it is however ridiculous to still understand why five billion other people may have quite shockingly different ones. An introduction to philosophical analysis is one way to realise this. This simply isn't just a text book for students, but a guide. Written with the gusto of Plato. Do not teach philosophy, show someone how to teach themselves.

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