

Humanism A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction Information: A Very Short Introduction Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction Science and Religion: A Very Short Introduction Music: A Very Short Introduction Thinking and Reasoning Religion Happiness: A Very Short Introduction Bestsellers Knowledge Agriculture: A Very Short Introduction Philosophy of Biology: A Very Short Introduction Organizations Kant Fashion: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Foucault: A Very Short Introduction The Scientific Revolution Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction John Heskett Luciano Floridi David Cottington Thomas Dixon Nicholas Cook Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Thomas A. Tweed Daniel M. Haybron John Sutherland Jennifer Nagel Paul Brassley Samir Okasha Mary Jo Hatch Roger Scruton Rebecca Arnold Gary Thomas Timothy Gowers Gary Gutting Lawrence M. Principe Edward Craig

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this book will transform the way you think about design by showing how integral it is to our daily lives from the spoon we use to eat our breakfast cereal to the medical equipment used to save lives john heskett goes beyond style and taste to look at how different cultures and individuals personalise objects

introduction 1 the information revolution 2 the language of information 3 mathematical information 4 semantic information 5 physical information 6 biological information 7 economic information 8 the ethics of information conclusion references

as public interest in modern art continues to grow there is a real need for a book that will engage general readers offering them not only information and ideas about modern art but also explaining its contemporary relevance and its history this book does just that

the debate between science and religion is never out of the news emotions run high fuelled by polemical bestsellers like the god delusion and at the other end

of the spectrum high profile campaigns to teach intelligent design in schools yet there is much more to the debate than the clash of these extremes as thomas dixon shows in this balanced and thought provoking introduction many have seen harmony rather than conflict between faith and science he explores not only the key philosophical questions that underlie the debate but also the social political and ethical contexts that have made science and religion such a fraught and interesting topic in the modern world offering perspectives from non christian religions and examples from across the physical biological and social sciences along the way he examines landmark historical episodes such as the trial of galileo by the inquisition in 1633 and the famous debate between darwin s bulldog thomas huxley and bishop wilberforce in oxford in 1860 the scopes monkey trial in tennessee in 1925 and the dover area school board case of 2005 are explained with reference to the interaction between religion law and education in modern america 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

this stimulating very short introduction to music invites us to really think about music and the values and qualities we ascribe to it the world teems with different kinds of music traditional folk classical jazz rock pop and each type of music tends to come with its own way of thinking drawing on a wealth of accessible examples ranging from beethoven to chinese zither music nicholas cook attempts to provide a framework for thinking about all music by examining the personal social and cultural values that music embodies the book reveals the shortcomings of traditional conceptions of music and sketches a more inclusive approach emphasizing the role of performers and listeners 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

thinking is the essence of what it means to be human and defines us more than anything else as a species jonathan evans explores cognitive psychological approaches to understanding the nature of thinking and reasoning problem solving and decision making

religion plays a central role in human experience billions of people around the world practice a faith and act in accordance with it religion shapes how they enter the world and how they leave it how they eat dress marry and raise their children it affects law economy and government it sanctifies injustice and combats it beginning with the first signs of religion among ancient humans and concluding with a look at modern citizens and contemporary trends leading scholar thomas tweed examines this powerful and enduring force in human society religion a very short introduction offers a concise non partisan overview of religion s long history and its complicated role in the world today

in this very short introduction dan haybron considers the true nature of happiness by examining what it is assessing its subjective values its importance in our lives and how we can and should pursue it he considers the current thinking on happiness from psychology to philosophy

i rejoice said doctor johnson to concur with the common reader for the last century the tastes and preferences of the common reader have been reflected in the american and british bestseller lists and this very short introduction takes an engaging look through the lists to reveal what we have been reading and why john sutherland shows that bestseller lists monitor one of the strongest pulses in modern literature and are therefore worthy of serious study along the way he lifts the lid on the bestseller industry examines what makes a book into a bestseller and asks what separates bestsellers from canonical fiction exploring the relationship between bestsellers and the fashions ideologies and cultural concerns of the day the book includes short case studies and lively summaries of bestsellers through the years from in his steps now almost totally forgotten but the biggest all time bestseller between 1895 and 1945 to gone with the wind and the andromeda strain and the da vinci code 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

human beings naturally desire knowledge but what is knowledge is it the same as having an opinion highlighting the major developments in the theory of knowledge from ancient greece to the present day jennifer nagel uses a number of simple everyday examples to explore the key themes and current debates of epistemology

agriculture one of the oldest human occupations is practised all over the world using techniques ranging from the profoundly traditional to the most scientifically advanced without it we would starve yet how many of us understand what is happening in the fields that we see as we drive through the countryside how often do we think about the origins of the food in our trolley in this very short introduction paul brassley and richard soffe explain what farmers do and why they do it beginning with the most basic resource the soil they show why it is important and how farmers can increase its productivity before turning to the plants and animals that grow on it and tracing the connections between their biology and the various ways in which farmers work with them the authors conclude by looking at some of the controversial issues facing contemporary agriculture its sustainability its impact on wildlife and landscape issues of animal welfare and the affect of climate change and the development of genetically modified organisms on farmers 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

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

most of us recognize that organizations are everywhere you meet them on every street corner in the form of families and shops study in them work for them buy from them pay taxes to them but have you given much thought to where they came from what they are today and what they might become in the future how and why do they have so much influence over us and what influences them how do they contribute to and detract from the meaningfulness of lives and how might we improve them so they better serve our needs and desires this very short introductions addresses all of these questions and considers many more many jo hatch introduces the concept of organizations by presenting definitions and ideas drawn from the a variety of subject areas including the physical sciences economics sociology psychology anthropology literature and the visual and performing arts drawing on examples from prehistory and everyday life from the animal kingdom as well as from business government and other formal organizations hatch provides a lively and thought provoking introduction to the process of organization 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

kant is arguably the most influential modern philosopher but also one of the most difficult roger scruton tackles his exceptionally complex subject with a strong hand exploring the background to kant s work and showing why the critique of pure reason has proved so enduring 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

fashion is a global industry and plays a role in our economic political cultural and social lives however fashion is often denigrated as trivial and superficial a sign of vanity and narcissism this very short introduction will give a clear understanding of how fashion has developed while addressing these divergent views

from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved has it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by

considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century 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

this book aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

foucault is one of those rare philosophers who has become a cult figure born in 1926 in france over the course of his life he dabbled in drugs politics and the paris sm scene all whilst striving to understand the deep concepts of identity knowledge and power from aesthetics to the penal system from madness and civilisation to avant garde literature foucault was happy to reject old models of thinking and replace them with versions that are still widely debated today a major influence on queer theory and gender studies he was openly gay and died of an aids related illness in 1984 he also wrote on architecture history law medicine literature politics and of course philosophy and even managed a best seller in france on a book dedicated to the history of systems of thought because of the complexity of his arguments people trying to come to terms with his work have desperately sought introductory material that makes his theories clear and accessible for the beginner ideally suited for the very short introductions series gary gutting presents a comprehensive but non systematic treatment of some highlights of foucault s life and thought beginning with a brief biography to set the social and political stage he then tackles foucault s thoughts on literature in particular the avant garde scene his philosophical and historical work his treatment of knowledge and power in modern society and his thoughts on sexuality 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

the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries witnessed such fervent investigations of the natural world that the period has been called the scientific revolution new ideas and discoveries not only redefined what human beings believed knew and could do but also forced them to redefine themselves with respect to the strange new worlds revealed by ships and scalpels telescopes and microscopes experimentation and contemplation driven by religious devotion by practical need by the promise of fame and profit or by the simple desire to know a broad range of thinkers and workers explored and reconceptualized the world around them explanatory systems were made discarded and remade by some of the best known names in the entire history of science copernicus galileo newton and by many others less recognized but no less important in this very short introduction lawrence m principe explores the exciting developments in the sciences of the stars astronomy astrology and cosmology the sciences of earth geography geology hydraulics pneumatics the sciences of matter and motion alchemy chemistry kinematics physics the sciences of life medicine anatomy biology zoology and much more the story is told from the perspective of the historical characters themselves emphasizing their background context reasoning and motivations and dispelling well worn myths about the history of science about the

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philosophy introduces important themes in ethics knowledge and the self via readings from plato aristotle darwin and buddhist writers it explains how areas of philosophy relate and explores the contexts in which philosophy was and is done

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