

# Doing Philosophy An Introduction Through Thought Experiments

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*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 sets forth the central problems of philosophical inquiry for the beginning student. Arguing that the best

way to learn about philosophy is to think about its questions directly, Thomas Nagel considers possible solutions to nine problems--knowledge of the world beyond our minds, knowledge of other minds, the mind-body problem, free will, the basis of morality, right and wrong, the nature of death, the meaning of life, and the meaning of words. Although he states his own opinions clearly, Nagel leaves these fundamental questions open, allowing students to entertain other solutions and encouraging them to think for themselves.

**Sophie's World** - Jostein Gaarder 2007-03-20  
One day Sophie comes home from school to find two questions in her mail: "Who are you?" and "Where does the world come from?" Before she knows it she is enrolled in a correspondence course with a mysterious philosopher. Thus begins Jostein Gaarder's unique novel, which is not only a mystery, but also a complete and entertaining history of philosophy.

Doing Philosophy - Theodore Schick 2024

"This edition of *Doing Philosophy An Introduction through Thought Experiments* explains how philosophical problems arise and why searching for solutions is important"--

*Thought Experiments in Ethics*

- Kovács Gusztáv 2021-03-25

*Thought Experiments in Ethics*,

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*Doing Philosophy* - Timothy

Williamson 2018-08-09

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, Williamson 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 little book will cause you to totally rethink what philosophy is.

[A Little History of Philosophy](#) -

Nigel Warburton 2011-10-25  
Presents an introduction to the ideas of major Western philosophers, including Aristotle, Augustine, John Locke, and Karl Marx.

**The Matrix and Philosophy** -

William Irwin 2002  
Presents essays exploring the philosophical themes of the motion picture "The Matrix," which portrays a false world created from nothing but perceptions.

**How to Think about Weird Things** - SCHICK 2019-02

*Evidence and Faith* - Charles Taliaferro 2005-02-28  
A narrative history of philosophical reflection on religion from the seventeenth century to the present.

**Real People** - Kathleen V. Wilkes 1993

This book explores the scope and limits of the concept of person—a vexed question in contemporary philosophy. The author begins by questioning the methodology of thought-experimentation, arguing that it engenders inconclusive and unconvincing results, and that truth is stranger than fiction. She then examines an assortment of real-life conditions, including infancy, insanity and dementia, dissociated states, and split brains. The popular faith in continuity of consciousness, and the unity of the person is subjected to sustained criticism. The author concludes with a look at different views of the person found in Homer, Aristotle, the post-Cartesians, and contemporary cognitive science.

*Worldviews* - Richard DeWitt  
2018-04-16

PRAISE FOR PREVIOUS EDITIONS "This is a brilliantly clear introduction (and indeed reframing) of the history and philosophy of science in terms

of worldviews and their elements.... In addition, the book is incredibly well-informed from both a scientific and philosophical angle. Highly recommended." Scientific and Medical Network "Unlike many other introductions to philosophy of science, DeWitt's book is at once historically informative and philosophically thorough and rigorous. Chapter notes, suggested readings, and references enhance its value." Choice "Written in clear and comprehensible prose and supplemented by effective diagrams and examples, *Worldviews* is an ideal text for anyone new to the history and philosophy of science. As the reader will come to find out, DeWitt is a gifted writer with the unique ability to break down complex and technical concepts into digestible parts, making *Worldviews* a welcoming and not overwhelming book for the introductory reader." *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, vol. 28(2) Now in its third edition, *Worldviews: An*

Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science strengthens its reputation as the most accessible and teachable introduction to the history and philosophy of science on the market. Geared toward engaging undergraduates and those approaching the history and philosophy of science for the first time, this intellectually-provocative volume takes advantage of its author's extensive teaching experience, parsing complex ideas using straightforward and sensible examples drawn from the physical sciences. Building on the foundations which earned the book its critical acclaim, author Richard DeWitt considers fundamental issues in the philosophy of science through the historical worldviews that influenced them, charting the evolution of Western science through the rise and fall of dominant systems of thought. Chapters have been updated to include discussion of recent findings in quantum theory, general relativity, and evolutionary

theory, and two new chapters exclusive to the third edition enrich its engagement with radical developments in contemporary science. At a time in modern history when the nature of truth, fact, and reality seem increasingly controversial, the third edition of *Worldviews* presents complex concepts with clarity and verve, and prepares inquisitive minds to engage critically with some of the most exciting questions in the philosophy of science.

*The Allegory of the Cave* - Plato  
2021-01-08

The Allegory of the Cave, or Plato's Cave, was presented by the Greek philosopher Plato in his work *Republic* (514a-520a) to compare "the effect of education (παιδεία) and the lack of it on our nature". It is written as a dialogue between Plato's brother Glaucon and his mentor Socrates, narrated by the latter. The allegory is presented after the analogy of the sun (508b-509c) and the analogy of the divided line (509d-511e). All three are characterized in relation to

dialectic at the end of Books VII and VIII (531d-534e). Plato has Socrates describe a group of people who have lived chained to the wall of a cave all of their lives, facing a blank wall. The people watch shadows projected on the wall from objects passing in front of a fire behind them, and give names to these shadows. The shadows are the prisoners' reality.

### *Superhero Thought*

*Experiments* - Chris Gavalier  
2019

"What if there's an alternative universe with a different moral code? What if we are being deceived by an evil genius? Examining the deep philosophical topics addressed in superhero comics, this entertaining book reads plot lines for the complex "thought experiments" they contain and analyzes their implications as if the comic authors were philosophers. In doing so, authors Chris Gavalier and Nathaniel Goldberg--a comics expert and a philosophy scholar, respectively--find that superhero comics often depict

philosophical thought experiments more fully than philosophers do, and with surprising results. For example, René Descartes briefly worries that we are being deceived by an evil genius, but Marvel Comics explores this concern--and its consequences--over decades. Similarly, in a few paragraphs philosophers Terry Horgan and Mark Timmons imagine a "moral twin earth" with deviant morality, while DC Comics dedicates multiple comics to different moral twin earths in which readers see multiple deviant moralities play out"--**Doing Philosophy** - Theodore Schick 2003  
Doing Philosophy helps students understand the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry by explaining what philosophical problems are, how they can be solved, and why searching for solutions is important. By acquainting students with philosophical theories and the thought experiments used to test them, this text fosters active learning and helps students become

better thinkers.

**Doing Philosophy** - Theodore Schick 2024

"This edition of *Doing Philosophy: An Introduction through Thought Experiments* explains how philosophical problems arise and why searching for solutions is important"--

[Looseleaf for Doing Philosophy: An Introduction Through Thought Experiments](#) - Lewis Vaughn 2019-01-25

Doing philosophy inspires active learning and helps students become more accomplished critical thinkers by encouraging them to reflect on philosophical theories and the thought experiments used to test them. The book traces the historical development of philosophical thinking on a number of central problems and shows how the solutions offered to these problems inform current thinking on many social, political, and religious issues. By introducing students to philosophical theorizing and encouraging them to formulate their own views, *Doing Philosophy* fosters

creative as well as critical thinking and generates an appreciation for the importance of philosophical inquiry.

*Reality+: Virtual Worlds and the Problems of Philosophy* - David J. Chalmers 2022-01-25

A leading philosopher takes a mind-bending journey through virtual worlds, illuminating the nature of reality and our place within it. Virtual reality is genuine reality; that's the central thesis of *Reality+*. In a highly original work of "technophilosophy," David J. Chalmers gives a compelling analysis of our technological future. He argues that virtual worlds are not second-class worlds, and that we can live a meaningful life in virtual reality. We may even be in a virtual world already. Along the way, Chalmers conducts a grand tour of big ideas in philosophy and science. He uses virtual reality technology to offer a new perspective on long-established philosophical questions. How do we know that there's an external world? Is there a god? What is the

nature of reality? What's the relation between mind and body? How can we lead a good life? All of these questions are illuminated or transformed by Chalmers' mind-bending analysis. Studded with illustrations that bring philosophical issues to life, Reality+ is a major statement that will shape discussion of philosophy, science, and technology for years to come.

### **The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology -**

Herman Cappelen 2016

This is a comprehensive book on philosophical methodology. A team of leading philosophers present original essays on various aspects of how philosophy should be and is done. They explore broad traditions and approaches, topics in philosophical methodology, and the interconnections between philosophy and neighbouring fields.

### **Knowledge Through Imagination - Amy Kind**

2016-03-04

Imagination is celebrated as our vehicle for escape from the

mundane here and now. It transports us to distant lands of magic and make-believe. It provides us with diversions during boring meetings or long bus rides. It enables creation of new things that the world has never seen. Yet the focus on imagination as a means of escape from the real world minimizes the fact that imagination seems also to furnish us with knowledge about it. Imagination seems an essential component in our endeavor to learn about the world in which we live—whether we're planning for the future, aiming to understand other people, or figuring out whether two puzzle pieces fit together. But how can the same mental power that allows us to escape the world as it currently is also inform us about the world as it currently is? The ten original essays in Knowledge Through Imagination, along with a substantial introduction by the editors, grapple with this neglected question; in doing so, they present a diverse array of positions ranging from

cautious optimism to deep-seated pessimism. Many of the essays proceed by considering specific domains of inquiry where imagination is often employed—from the navigation of our immediate environment, to the prediction of our own and other peoples' behavior, to the investigation of ethical truth. Other essays assess the prospects for knowledge through imagination from a more general perspective, looking at issues of cognitive architecture and basic rationality. Blending perspectives from philosophy of mind, cognitive science, epistemology, aesthetics, and ethics, *Knowledge Through Imagination* sheds new light on the epistemic role of imagination.

**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, Williamson 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*

**Doing Philosophy: An Introduction Through Thought Experiments** - Lewis Vaughn 2012-09-04

Now in its fifth successful edition, *Doing Philosophy* helps students understand the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry by explaining what philosophical problems are, how they can be solved, and why searching for solutions is important. The book traces the historical development of

philosophical thinking on a number of central problems and shows how philosophical theories have evolved in response to criticism. By introducing students to philosophical theorizing and encouraging them to formulate their own views, *Doing Philosophy* inspires active learning and helps students become more accomplished critical thinkers.

**Homo Luminous** - Mike Frost  
2011-01-21

David Werden wants nothing more than to lead a quiet, ordinary life. But his world is turned upside down when an unknown event changes the face of the planet. Realizing he cannot live alone in the ruins of the old world, and compelled by a strange internal force to reach the sea, he sets out on foot, carrying what he can, struggling against the harsh post-apocalyptic environment to search out others who may still be alive. Thrust into the leadership of a band of survivors, David struggles to scratch out the necessities of life while dealing with the

staggering destruction and overwhelming sense of loss - and begins to understand the tragic and marvelous events that have occurred to the planet and to humanity itself. Finding love and betrayal, he must fight those who cling to the old world with all their strength and those who wish to stamp out the growing number of people coming to terms with their new levels of perception and insight into the Universal Mind.

### **The Philosophy of**

### **Philosophy** - Timothy

Williamson 2021-09-27

The expanded new edition of one of the most influential and controversial books about the nature of philosophy published in the past several decades *The Philosophy of Philosophy* presents an original, unified concept of philosophy as a non-natural science. In this provocative work, distinguished philosopher Timothy Williamson challenges widely-held assumptions and clarifies long-standing misconceptions about the methodology and nature of

philosophical inquiry. The author rejects the standard narratives of contemporary philosophy developed from naturalism, the linguistic turn, postmodern irony, and other prominent trends of the twentieth century. Viewing the method of philosophy as evolving from non-philosophical pursuits, Williamson provides readers with fresh insight into the “self-image” of philosophy and offers new ways of understanding what philosophy is and how it actually works. Now in its second edition, this landmark volume comprises the original book and the author’s subsequent work. New topics include the recent history of analytic philosophy, assessments of experimental philosophy, theories of concepts and understanding, Wittgensteinian approaches, popular philosophy, naturalism, morally-loaded examples in philosophy, philosophical applications of scientific methods, and many more. This edition features the author’s latest thoughts on a variety of

issues, autobiographical reflections, and replies to critics. Proposes an alternative narrative about the nature of philosophy Argues that the common assumption of philosophical exceptionalism is false Highlights the similarities between philosophy and the other sciences in both methodology and subject matter Explores why contemporary philosophy has failed to articulate an adequate methodology Emphasizes increasing the methodological standards of reasoning in philosophy The Philosophy of Philosophy, Second Edition remains essential reading for philosophers, scholars, graduate and advanced undergraduate students in philosophy, and other readers with a sustained interest in the method and rationale of the doing of philosophy.

**Reasons and Persons** - Derek Parfit 1986-01-23

This book challenges, with several powerful arguments, some of our deepest beliefs about rationality, morality, and personal identity. The author

claims that we have a false view of our own nature; that it is often rational to act against our own best interests; that most of us have moral views that are directly self-defeating; and that, when we consider future generations the conclusions will often be disturbing. He concludes that moral non-religious moral philosophy is a young subject, with a promising but unpredictable future.

**What If...** - Peg Tittle  
2016-05-23

What If. . . Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy is a brief collection of over 100 classic and contemporary "thought experiments," each exploring an important philosophical argument. These thought experiments introduce students to the kind of disciplined thought required in philosophy, and awaken their intellectual curiosity. Featuring a clear and conversational writing style that doesn't dilute the ideas, the value of the book is in its simplicity—in both format and tone. Each thought experiment is accompanied by

commentary from the author that explains its importance and provides thought-provoking questions, all encapsulated on two pages.

### **The Laboratory of the Mind -**

James Robert Brown 1993

An investigation into the philosophical implications of thought experiments, which provides accounts of some of the most influential thought experiments in history, including Gallileo's argument on falling bodies and other claims which have challenged scientific philosophers.

### Looseleaf for How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age -

Theodore Schick, Jr.

2019-02-01

How to Think about Weird Things, is a concise and engaging text that offers students a step-by-step process by which to determine when a claim is likely to be true.

Schick and Vaughn provide a course on critical thinking-emphasizing neither debunking nor advocating specific claims, but rather explaining principles of good reasoning that enable

students to evaluate any claim, no matter how strange, for themselves. By teaching readers how to distinguish good reasons from bad reasons for believing a claim, this text helps students improve their decision-making abilities and provides them with a powerful weapon against all forms of hucksterism.

### **How to Think about Weird Things - Theodore Schick**

2010-05-01

This brief, inexpensive text helps the reader to think critically, using examples from the weird claims and beliefs that abound in our culture to demonstrate the sound evaluation of any claim. The authors focus on types of logical arguments and proofs, making How to Think about Weird Things a versatile supplement for logic, critical thinking, philosophy of science, or any other science appreciation courses.

### Bioethics - Lewis Vaughn

2016-07-15

Bioethics: Principles, Issues, and Cases, Third Edition, explores the philosophical,

medical, social, and legal aspects of key bioethical issues. Opening with a thorough introduction to ethics, bioethics, and moral reasoning, it then covers influential moral theories and the criteria for evaluating them. Integrating eighty-nine readings--twelve of them new to this edition--numerous classic bioethical cases, and abundant pedagogical tools, this text addresses the most provocative and controversial topics in bioethics.

#### PEDAGOGICAL FEATURES:

"Classic Case Files" describe landmark cases that shaped the debate, while news-making "Cases for Evaluation" encourage students to form their own opinions. Various text boxes: "In Depth" boxes contain additional material, illustrations, or analyses, much of it "ripped from the headlines"; "Fact File" boxes provide statistics on the social, medical, and scientific facets of a chapter's topic; and "Legal Brief" boxes summarize important court rulings and the status of major legislation. "Key

Terms" are boldfaced and boxed off within the text and then defined in a glossary at the back of the book. "Applying Major Theories" sections at the end of each chapter help students relate theories to the issues.

**Thought Experiments** - Roy A. Sorensen 1998

This text analyses a variety of thought experiments, and explores what they are, how they work, and what their positive and negative aspects are. It also sets the theory within an evolutionary framework of advances in experimental psychology.

**Epistemic Uses of Imagination** - Christopher Badura 2021-06-13

This book explores a topic that has recently become the subject of increased philosophical interest: how can imagination be put to epistemic use? Though imagination has long been invoked in contexts of modal knowledge, in recent years philosophers have begun to explore its capacity to play an epistemic role in a variety of other contexts as well. In this

collection, the contributors address an assortment of issues relating to epistemic uses of imagination, and in particular, they take up the ways in which our imaginings must be constrained so as to justify beliefs and give rise to knowledge. These constraints are explored across several different contexts in which imagination is appealed to for justification, namely reasoning, modality and modal knowledge, thought experiments, and knowledge of self and others. Taken as a whole, the contributions in this volume break new ground in explicating when and how imagination can be epistemically useful. *Epistemic Uses of Imagination* will be of interest to scholars and advanced students who are working on imagination, as well as those working more broadly in epistemology, aesthetics, and philosophy of mind.

**The Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments** -

Michael T Stuart 2017-07-20

Thought experiments are a

means of imaginative reasoning that lie at the heart of philosophy, from the pre-Socratics to the modern era, and they also play central roles in a range of fields, from physics to politics. The *Routledge Companion to Thought Experiments* is an invaluable guide and reference source to this multifaceted subject. Comprising over 30 chapters by a team of international contributors, the *Companion* covers the following important areas: · the history of thought experiments, from antiquity to the trolley problem and quantum non-locality; · thought experiments in the humanities, arts, and sciences, including ethics, physics, theology, biology, mathematics, economics, and politics; · theories about the nature of thought experiments; · new discussions concerning the impact of experimental philosophy, cross-cultural comparison studies, metaphilosophy, computer simulations, idealization, dialectics, cognitive science, the artistic nature of thought

experiments, and metaphysical issues. This broad ranging Companion goes backwards through history and sideways across disciplines. It also engages with philosophical perspectives from empiricism, rationalism, naturalism, skepticism, pluralism, contextualism, and neo-Kantianism to phenomenology. This volume will be valuable for anyone studying the methods of philosophy or any discipline that employs thought experiments, as well as anyone interested in the power and limits of the mind.

**Scale Theory** - Joshua DiCaglio 2021-11-30

A pioneering call for a new understanding of scale across the humanities How is it possible that you are—simultaneously—cells, atoms, a body, quarks, a component in an ecological network, a moment in the thermodynamic dispersal of the sun, and an element in the gravitational whirl of galaxies? In this way, we routinely transform reality into things already outside of direct

human experience, things we hardly comprehend even as we speak of DNA, climate effects, toxic molecules, and viruses. How do we find ourselves with these disorienting layers of scale? Enter Scale Theory, which provides a foundational theory of scale that explains how scale works, the parameters of scalar thinking, and how scale refigures reality—that teaches us how to think in terms of scale, no matter where our interests may lie. Joshua DiCaglio takes us on a fascinating journey through six thought experiments that provide clarifying yet provocative definitions for scale and new ways of thinking about classic concepts ranging from unity to identity. Because our worldviews and philosophies are largely built on nonscalar experience, he then takes us slowly through the ways scale challenges and reconfigures objects, subjects, and relations. Scale Theory is, in a sense, nondisciplinary—weaving together a dizzying array of sciences (from nanoscience to

ecology) with discussions from the humanities (from philosophy to rhetoric). In the process, a curious pattern emerges: attempts to face the significance of scale inevitably enter terrain closer to mysticism than science. Rather than dismiss this connection, DiCaglio examines the reasons for it, redefining mysticism in terms of scale and integrating contemplative philosophies into the discussion. The result is a powerful account of the implications and challenges of scale, attuned to the way scale transforms both reality and ourselves.

### **The Scientific Imagination -**

Peter Godfrey-Smith

2019-12-03

The imagination, our capacity to entertain thoughts and ideas "in the mind's eye," is indispensable in science as elsewhere in human life. Indeed, common scientific practices such as modeling and idealization rely on the imagination to construct simplified, stylized scenarios essential for scientific understanding. Yet the

philosophy of science has traditionally shied away from according an important role to the imagination, wary of psychologizing fundamental scientific concepts like explanation and justification. In recent years, however, advances in thinking about creativity and fiction, and their relation to theorizing and understanding, have prompted a move away from older philosophical perspectives and toward a greater acknowledgement of the place of the imagination in scientific practice. Meanwhile, psychologists have engaged in significant experimental work on the role of the imagination in causal thinking and probabilistic reasoning. The Scientific Imagination delves into this burgeoning area of debate at the intersection of the philosophy and practice of science, bringing together the work of leading researchers in philosophy and psychology. Philosophers discuss such topics as modeling, idealization, metaphor and explanation, examining their

role within science as well as how they affect questions in metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of language. Psychologists discuss how our imaginative capacities develop and how they work, their relationships with processes of reasoning, and how they compare to related capacities, such as categorization and counterfactual thinking. Together, these contributions combine to provide a comprehensive and exciting picture of the scientific imagination.

Doing Philosophy: an Introduction Through Thought Experiments - Lewis Vaughn  
2019-01-23

**Thinking on Screen** - Thomas E. Wartenberg 2007-10-31  
Thinking on Screen: Film as Philosophy is an accessible and thought-provoking examination of the way films raise and explore complex philosophical ideas. Written in a clear and engaging style, Thomas Wartenberg examines films' ability to discuss, and even criticize ideas that have

intrigued and puzzled philosophers over the centuries such as the nature of personhood, the basis of morality, and epistemological skepticism. Beginning with a demonstration of how specific forms of philosophical discourse are presented cinematically, Wartenberg moves on to offer a systematic account of the ways in which specific films undertake the task of philosophy. Focusing on the films *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *Modern Times*, *The Matrix*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *The Third Man*, *The Flicker*, and *Empire*, Wartenberg shows how these films express meaningful and pertinent philosophical ideas. This book is essential reading for students of philosophy with an interest in film, aesthetics, and film theory. It will also be of interest to film enthusiasts intrigued by the philosophical implications of film.

**Readings in the Philosophy of Science: From Positivism to Postmodernism** - Theodore Schick 1999-12-10

This anthology traces the development of thinking in the philosophy of science from logical positivism to the present. Subsequent articles often clarify or critique preceding ones. As a result, students get a sense of how philosophical theories develop in response to one another.

**Doing Philosophy** - Theodore Schick 2019

*Beginning Ethics* - Lewis Vaughn 2014-08-01

The most accessible, practical, and affordable introduction to ethical theory and moral reasoning.

**Philosophy for Everyone** - Matthew Chrisman 2016-07-15  
Philosophy for Everyone begins by explaining what philosophy is before exploring the questions and issues at the foundation of this important subject. Key topics in this new edition and their areas of focus include: Moral philosophy - the nature of our moral judgments and reactions, whether they aim at some objective moral truth, or are mere personal or cultural preferences; and the

possibility of moral responsibility given the sorts of things that cause behavior; Political philosophy - fundamental questions about the nature of states and their relationship to the citizens within those states  
Epistemology - what our knowledge of the world and ourselves consists in, and how we come to have it; and whether we should form beliefs by trusting what other people tell us; Philosophy of mind - what it means for something to have a mind, and how minds should be understood and explained; Philosophy of science - foundational conceptual issues in scientific research and practice, such as whether scientific theories are true; and Metaphysics - fundamental questions about the nature of reality, such as whether we have free will, or whether time travel is possible. This book is designed to be used in conjunction with the free 'Introduction to Philosophy' MOOC (massive open online course) created by the University of Edinburgh's

Eidyn research centre, and  
hosted by the Coursera  
platform  
([www.coursera.org/course/intr](http://www.coursera.org/course/intr)

phil). This book is also highly  
recommended for anyone  
looking for a short overview of  
this fascinating discipline.