

1: Philosophy - William F. Lawhead

x Introduction from various beliefs peculiar to specific religions. But a complete treatise on the philosophy of religion would be long and complicated, and space is limited in an introduction.

The text follows a dialogic pro-con format presenting divergent positions on each topic, ensuring that students are both exposed to and understand both sides of every topic, so they can develop their own informed positions. The arrangement of the articles and the introductions which accompany them help place the readings in their historical or contemporary context, and ensure that the reader encounters a spectrum of viewpoints. The text even-handedly raises critical questions and fosters independent thinking within a rigorous presentation that draws numerous examples from both classical and contemporary sources. Chapters address topics such as personal and religious ethics, the most recent developments in moral theory, and feminist and multicultural ethical perspectives. Study questions and useful bibliographies further assist students delving deeper into philosophy. The book cuts through the confusion and delivers a clear and comprehensive selection of readings from classical and contemporary sources. Presented in a dynamic pro and con format, with detailed summaries of each argument, this comprehensive anthology allows you to watch the ethical debate unfold before your eyes. A Companion Website for both students and instructors contains online summaries, test questions, PowerPoint slides, and essay questions for each author for instructors ; and online flashcards, quizzes, review questions, and web links for students. It uses literary works to enliven and make concrete the ethical theory or applied issues addressed. Literary works by Angelou, Camus, Hawthorne, Huxley, Ibsen, Le Guin, Melville, Orwell, Styron, Tolstoy, and many others lead students into such philosophical concepts and issues as relativism; utilitarianism; virtue ethics; the meaning of life; freedom and autonomy; sex, love, and marriage; animal rights; and terrorism. These topics are developed further through readings by philosophers including Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Singer, Sartre, Nagel, and Thomson. This unique anthology emphasizes the personal dimension of ethics, which is often ignored or minimized in ethics texts. It also incorporates chapter introductions, study questions. Topics covered include the nature of philosophy, the existence of God, immortality, knowledge, the mind-body question, personal identity, free will and determinism, ethics, political philosophy, and the meaning of life. He examines the virtues and vices of nationalism, and compares them to the promises and problems of cosmopolitanism. He ultimately argues that enforceable international law - which will promote peace and curtail terrorism - requires that we endorse a form of "soft nationalism," a form of nationalism ultimately compatible with a limited, republican form of world government. Then, he addresses universal human rights, arguing against the notion that they are an ethnocentric product of Western culture, and provides an overall justification of human rights as correlative to moral duties. He concludes on a hopeful note, proposing a world government as an effective countermeasure, albeit ambitious and controversial, to terrorism and its causes. Pojman writes from an impartial perspective, presenting various options and points of view while guiding readers in their own search for truth through these often emotion-laden, crucial issues. Experiencing a sense of eternity in our heartsâ€”but at the same time confined to temporal and spatial constraintsâ€”we seek to understand ourselves, both individually and as a species. What is our nature? What is this enigma that we call human? This book seeks to find answers to these questions by exploring major theories in Western philosophy and religion, along with several traditions in Eastern thought. It concludes with a discussion of the question of free will, ultimately asserting that each one of us must decide for ourselves who and what we are and, based on our answer, how we shall live.

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