

Hobbes A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction Information: A Very Short Introduction History Knowledge Thought: A Very Short Introduction Nothing Thinking and Reasoning Organizations Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction Foucault: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Writing and Script Law Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction Comedy International Relations Reality: A Very Short Introduction Bestsellers Literary Theory Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction John Heskett Luciano Floridi John H. Arnold Jennifer Nagel Tim Bayne Frank Close Jonathan St B. T. Evans Mary Jo Hatch Edward Craig Gary Gutting Gary Thomas Andrew Robinson Raymond Wacks David Cottington Matthew Bevis Christian Reus-Smit Jan Westerhoff John Sutherland Jonathan Culler Timothy Gowers

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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

there are many stories we can tell about the past and we are not perhaps as free as we might imagine in our choice of which stories to tell or where those stories end john arnold s very short introduction is a stimulating essay about how we study and understand history the book begins by inviting us to think about various questions provoked by our investigation of history and explores the ways these questions have been answered in the past concepts such as causation interpretation and periodization are introduced by means of concrete examples of how historians work giving the reader a sense of the excitement of discovering not only the past but also ourselves 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

in this lively very short introduction tim bayne explores the nature of thought drawing on research from philosophy psychology neuroscience and anthropology he examines what we know and what we don t know about one of the defining features of human nature our capacity for thought p 2 of cover

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest

discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology s most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin 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

our extraordinary capacity to reason and solve problems sets us aside from other animals but our evolved thinking processes also leave us susceptible to bias and error the study of thinking and reasoning goes back to aristotle and was one of the first topics to be studied when psychology separated from philosophy in this very short introduction jonathan evans explores cognitive psychological approaches to understanding the nature of thinking and reasoning problem solving and decision making he shows how our problem solving capabilities are hugely dependent on also having the imagination to ask the right questions and the ability to see things from a completely new perspective beginning by considering the approaches of the behaviourists and the gestalt psychologists he moves on to modern explorations of thinking including hypothetical thinking conditionals deduction rationality and intuition covering the role of past learning iq and cognitive biases evans also discusses the idea that there may be two different ways of thinking

arising from our evolutionary history 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 mary 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

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

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

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

without writing there would be no records no history no books and no emails writing is an integral and essential part of our lives but when did it start why do we all write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today all of these questions are answered in this very short introduction starting with the origins of writing five thousand years ago with cuneiform and egyptian hieroglyphs andrew robinson explains how these early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the roman alphabet and the chinese characters he reveals how the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today including airport signage and text messaging resemble ancient ones much more closely than we might think 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

law touches every aspect of our daily lives and yet the main concepts terms and processes of the legal system remain obscure to many this very short introduction in its third edition provides a lucid accessible guide to modern legal systems considering a number of social and political events that have had an impact on the law

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

to consider comedy in its many incarnations is to raise diverse but related questions what for instance is humour and how may it be used or abused when do we laugh and why what is it that writers and speakers enjoy and risk when they tell a joke indulge in bathos talk nonsense or encourage irony this very short introduction explores comedy both as a literary genre and as a range of non literary phenomena experiences and events matthew bevis studies the classics of comic drama prose fiction and poetry alongside forms of pantomime comic opera silent cinema popular music broadway shows music hall stand up and circus acts rom coms sketch shows sit coms caricatures and cartoons taking in scenes from aristophanes to the office from the roman saturnalia to groundhog day bevis also considers comic theory from aristotle to freud and beyond tracing how comic achievements have resisted as well as confirmed theory across the ages this book takes comedy seriously without taking it solemnly and offers an engaging study of the comic spirit which lies at the heart of our shared social and cultural 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 relations affects everyone s lives their security economic well being rights and freedoms and the environment they share this book explores international relations central concerns with the changing way that political authority is organised globally and provides the theoretical tools to understand the dynamics of the field

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

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

what is literary theory is there a relationship between literature and culture in fact what is literature and does it matter these are some of questions addressed by jonathan culler in this very short introduction to literary theory often a controversial subject said to have transformed the study of culture and society in the past two decades literary theory is accused of undermining respect for tradition and truth and encouraging suspicion about the political and psychological implications of cultural projects rather than admiration for great literature here jonathan culler explains theory not by describing warring schools but by sketching key moves theory has encouraged and speaking directly about the implications of theory for thinking about literature human identity and the power of language in this new edition culler takes a look at new material including the death of theory the links between the theory of narrative and cognitive science trauma theory ecocriticism and includes a new chapter on ethics and aesthetics this lucid introduction is useful for anyone who has wondered what all the fuss is about or who wants to think about literature today 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

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