

Linguistics A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction History Information: A Very Short Introduction Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction Organizations Knowledge Logic Writing and Script Religion Bestsellers Thinking and Reasoning Thought: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction Foucault: A Very Short Introduction Happiness: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Comedy: A Very Short Introduction Literary Theory Music: A Very Short Introduction John Heskett John H. Arnold Luciano Floridi Edward Craig Mary Jo Hatch Jennifer Nagel Graham Priest Andrew Robinson Thomas A. Tweed John Sutherland Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Tim Bayne Timothy Gowers David Cottington Gary Gutting Daniel M. Haybron Gary Thomas Matthew Bevis Jonathan Culler Nicholas Cook

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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

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

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

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

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

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

graham priest shows that formal logic is a powerful exciting part of modern philosophy a tool for thinking about everything from the existence of god and the reality of time to paradoxes of probability explaining formal logic in simple non technical terms this edition includes new sections on mathematical algorithms axioms and proofs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

with a broad scope across the millennia from high literature to popular culture between page and stage and screen this very short introduction considers comedy not only as a literary genre but also as a broader impulse at work in many other historical and contemporary forms of satire parody and play

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 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

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