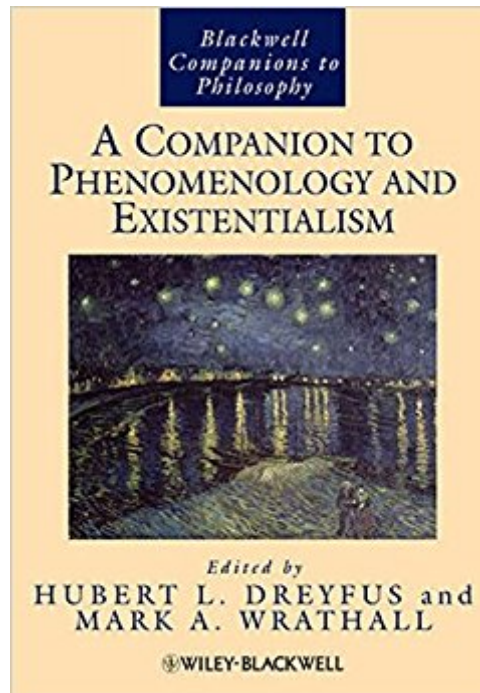




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# A Companion To Phenomenology And Existentialism



## Synopsis

A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism is a complete guide to two of the dominant movements of philosophy in the twentieth century. Written by a team of leading scholars, including Dagfinn Føllesdal, J. N. Mohanty, Robert Solomon, Jean-Luc Marion Highlights the area of overlap between the two movements Features longer essays discussing each of the main schools of thought, shorter essays introducing prominent themes, and problem-oriented chapters Organised topically, around concepts such as temporality, intentionality, death and nihilism Features essays on unusual subjects, such as medicine, the emotions, artificial intelligence, and environmental philosophy

## Book Information

Paperback: 624 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 1 edition (April 20, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1405191139

ISBN-13: 978-1405191135

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.8 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #631,927 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #235 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Phenomenology](#) #258 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Existentialism](#) #275 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The volume is thorough and will assist readers interested in both Continental thought and traditional Anglo-American topics." (CHOICE, November 2009)

A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism is a complete guide to two of the dominant movements of philosophy in the twentieth century. Comprising a series of original essays written by leading scholars, it highlights the approaches, styles, and problems common to the broad range of philosophers included under the banners of phenomenology and existentialism. The volume features three types of entry: longer essays discussing each of the main schools of thought; shorter essays introducing prominent themes and concepts, such as temporality, death, and nihilism; and

problem-oriented chapters discussing important phenomenological and existential approaches to the central questions that have preoccupied each of these traditions. The essays cover both mainstream and less usual topics, such as medicine, the emotions, artificial intelligence, and environmental philosophy.

This volume is a welcome addition to Blackwell's excellent series of "companions" to philosophical figures and schools. Its focus is important--it acknowledges implicitly that phenomenology has a variety of dimensions, but also that existentialism played a key role in the development of phenomenology. It also insists, rightly, that existentialism should not be understood outside of its phenomenological roots. Dreyfus and Wrathall are a marvelous team in their own writing, and they have done their usual impeccable job gathering clear-thinking and clear-writing scholars to produce a truly helpful volume for students of philosophy at all levels.

I have just received mine and thus I obviously have not read all the essays contained in it; I have read, though, a couple of them and, while I mean no disrespect toward the authors, I have found some of them rather weak. I must confess I have found Dreyfus's essay ("The roots of existentialism") disappointing, since he constructs his reading on Pascal, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky and Nietzsche, leaving thus Rousseau, Schelling and others virtually unmentioned. T. Carman's "The concept of Authenticity" is also quite disappointing, since he, pretty much like Dreyfus, opts for a reading based on authors (Kierkegaard, Heidegger and Sartre), while one could try to approach the issue in a more analytic fashion. Wrathall's ("Existential Phenomenology") and Udo Tietz's ("German Existence-Phil."), in turn, are quite solid, as are probably many others. In sum, I really expected more from some of these authors, who are, in turn, well known scholars in this area of research; my whole point is that I have felt the need of other books in order to complement some of these essays.

This is my review. It is a review for the above title. The above title is less of a philosophical companion than just a collection of essays which have served as my companion, philosophically.

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