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Human Knowledge: Classical And Contemporary Approaches

HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

Classical and Contemporary Approaches

THIRD EDITION

PAUL K. MOSER
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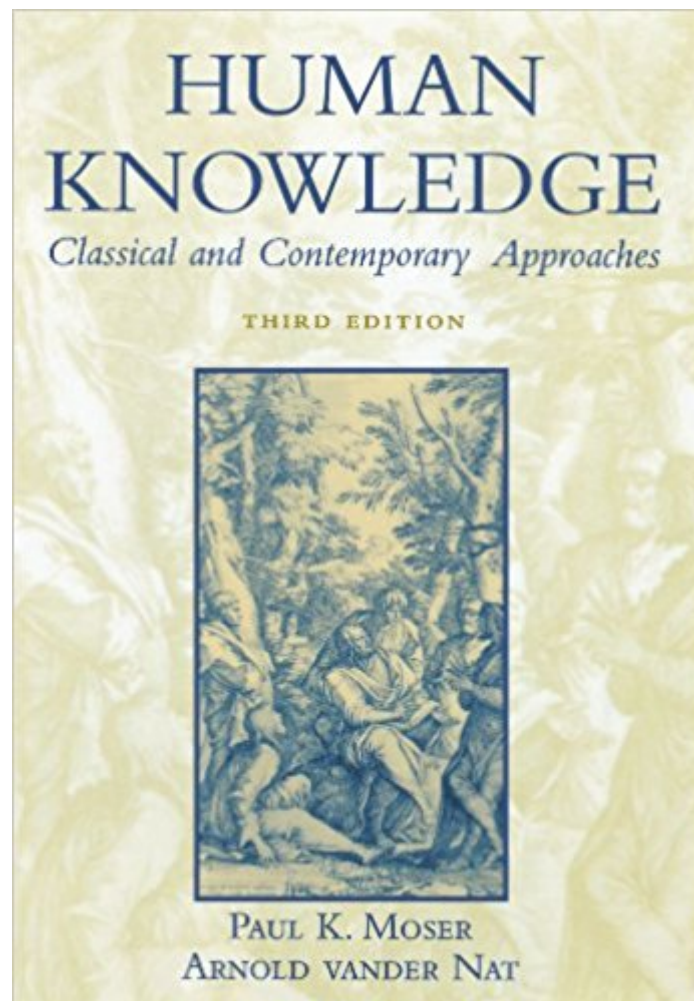
Synopsis

Offering a unique and wide-ranging examination of the theory of knowledge, the new edition of this comprehensive collection deftly blends readings from the foremost classical sources with the work of important contemporary philosophical thinkers. Human Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Approaches, 3/e, offers philosophical examinations of epistemology from ancient Greek and Roman philosophy (Plato, Aristotle, Sextus Empiricus); medieval philosophy (Augustine, Aquinas); early modern philosophy (Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Reid, Kant); classical pragmatism and Anglo-American empiricism (James, Russell, Ayer, Lewis, Carnap, Quine, Rorty); and other influential Anglo-American philosophers (Chisholm, Kripke, Moore, Wittgenstein, Strawson, Putnam). Organized chronologically and thematically, Human Knowledge, 3/e, features exceptionally broad coverage and nontechnical selections that are easily accessible to students. An ideal text for both undergraduate and graduate courses in epistemology, it is enhanced by the editors' substantial general introduction, section overviews, and up-to-date bibliographies. The third edition offers expanded selections on contemporary epistemology and adds selections by Thomas Reid, Richard Rorty, David B. Annis, Richard Feldman and Earl Conee, Ernest Sosa, Barry Stroud, and Louise M. Antony. Human Knowledge, 3/e, offers an unparalleled introduction to our ancient struggle to understand our own intellectual experience.

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Customer Reviews

"A well-chosen collection of both classical and contemporary texts from the Western tradition in

philosophy. Excellent general introduction and extremely helpful prefaces for the different parts."--Angelika Soldan, University of Texas at Brownsville

Paul K. Moser is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. His most recent books include The Severity of God: Religion and Philosophy Reconceived (Cambridge University Press, 2013); The Elusive God: Reorienting Religious Epistemology (Cambridge University Press, 2009); and The Evidence for God: Religious Knowledge Reexamined (Cambridge University Press, 2010). He is editor of Jesus and Philosophy: New Essays (Cambridge University Press, 2009), and co-editor of Divine Hiddenness (Cambridge University Press, 2002) and of The Wisdom of the Christian Faith (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Moser is the past Editor of the American Philosophical Quarterly.

Great

A philosopher's handbook!

Arlene Wilson gave this book a terrible review and all of her points for doing so are misguided for a few reasons, First, Arlene does not understand that this is not a general survey text for an introduction class in philosophy. This text is specific to epistemology. Secondly, Wilson does not understand that this book is an anthology of papers written by philosophers dating back to the ancients. That being said, this is not an instructional textbook. It is a reader and the authors do a great job of presenting an overview of the major ideas contained in each section. The instruction she seeks is supposed to come from someone trained in philosophy. It is possible to learn from the papers contained in the text, but only under the presupposition that one has already studied somewhat extensively in philosophy; otherwise, confusion, such as that experienced by Wilson is sure to follow.I am a professor at City College of San Francisco, and I use this text for my class PHIL4: Knowledge because it contains all of the major historical treatises on epistemology and many seminal contemporary works. Furthermore, the book is organized in such a way that there are often main articles and responses to those articles. For example, the Gettier paper on the insufficiency of the JTB account of knowledge includes two enlightening responses. Lastly, all of the papers in the text are fairly non-technical. In other words, one does not need knowledge of advanced predicate calculus to understand the content, so intro students can grasp what's at stake with each topic, with the guidance of an instructor, of course.

Can I give a half star?? This has to be one of the worst written and presented books on philosophy--ever!It tries to give a chronological ordering of various theories and philosophers-- without a strong foundational companion book, guide, CD, DVD, pamphlet, or website. Multiple reviews of the book add no further insight, and only accomplish bringing on sinus headaches, migraines and elevated blood pressure.Of the many difficult text books I have used, I have learned that time gives one better insight and perspective on its usefulness.It has been two years-- the book is still awful.In fact, it is so awful that I would recommend the following:1. Buy the book to carry to class; make sure it has a dust jacket so you can get full value when you sell it back to the store2. Don't buy the book--ask the book seller to reccomend another text that provides a GOOD overview of the various branches of philosophy, and they relate to each other. That way you actually learn something, because if you are depending on this book for a good grade, its not happening....

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