

Contents

<i>List of boxes</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii

0	What is philosophy?	1
0.0	Science fiction and philosophy	1
0.1	Thought experiments	5
0.2	Areas of philosophy: value theory	7
0.3	Areas of philosophy: knowledge and reality	9
0.5	Summary	10
0.6	Bibliography and recommended reading	10
1	Philosophical method and philosophical disagreement	12
1.0	Logic and arguments	13
1.1	Fallacies	16
1.3	Truth and rationality	18
1.4	Relativism	22
1.5	The moral disagreement argument for relativism	24
1.6	The argument from tolerance for relativism	27
1.7	Reductio ad absurdum argument against ethical relativism	30
1.8	Summary	31
1.9	About the readings	32
1.10	“Kirinyaga,” by Michael Resnick	33
1.11	“The Ring of Gyges,” from Plato’s <i>Republic</i>	47
1.12	“On Trying Out One’s New Sword,” by Mary Midgley	49
1.13	Bibliography and recommended reading	54
2	Knowledge and skepticism	57
2.0	The concept of knowledge	58
2.1	Skepticism	63
2.2	Dream skepticism	67
2.3	Evil demon skepticism	69

2.4	Assessing the skeptical arguments	72
2.5	Foundationalism	74
2.6	Closure principles	77
2.7	Certainty and fallibilism	79
2.8	Summary	80
2.9	About the readings	81
2.10	“We Can Remember It for You Wholesale,” by Philip K. Dick	82
2.11	“The Allegory of the Cave,” from Plato’s <i>Republic</i>	98
2.12	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (I and II), by René Descartes.	101
2.13	“The Simulation Argument and Simulation Hypotheses,” by Alasdair Richmond	107
2.14	Bibliography and recommended reading	119
3	Religion and belief in God	123
3.0	The concept of God	124
3.1	A design argument for God’s existence	126
3.2	Assessing the design argument for God’s existence	129
3.4	The argument from evil	132
3.5	Assessing the argument from evil: if God does it, it is good	134
3.6	Assessing the argument from evil: evil for goodness’ sake	137
3.7	Assessing the argument from evil: evil for freedom’s sake	139
3.8	God’s existence vs. knowledge of God’s existence	142
3.9	Summary	145
3.10	About the readings	146
3.11	“Hell is the Absence of God,” by Ted Chiang	147
3.12	“The Classical Ontological Argument for God’s Existence,” from Saint Anselm’s <i>Proslogion</i>	166
3.13	“Problems with the Design Argument,” by David Hume	168
3.14	“Suffering, Evidence, and Analogy: Noseeum Arguments vs. Skeptical Gambits,” by Stephen Wykstra	174
3.15	Bibliography and recommended reading	188
4	Spacetime and time travel	193
4.0	Presentism	195
4.1	From presentism to four-dimensionalism	196
4.2	The Time Traveler’s hypothesis	200
4.3	The simple logical problem of time travel	202
4.4	The changing the past objection of time travel	204
4.5	The causal loop problem of time travel	206
4.6	Contemporary physics and time travel	209
4.7	Philosophers on absolute and relative space	212
4.8	Summary	215
4.9	About the readings	216

4.10	“—All You Zombies—,” by Robert Heinlein	217
4.11	“Time Is Beyond the Understanding of Human Minds,” from Saint Augustine’s <i>Confessions</i>	227
4.12	“Three Time Travel Problems,” by Franz Kiekeben	229
4.13	Bibliography and recommended reading	239
5	Mind	244
5.0	The mind: what it does	245
5.1	The mind: what it is—the substance dualist answer	249
5.2	The conceivability argument for dualism	250
5.3	Assessing dualism: causal interaction	252
5.4	The mind: what it is—the physicalist answer	255
5.5	Type identity theory	257
5.6	Functionalism	260
5.7	Artificial intelligence	262
5.8	Problems with physicalism: the knowledge argument	266
5.9	Summary	270
5.10	About the readings	270
5.11	“Truncat,” by Cory Doctorow	271
5.12	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (II and VI) and <i>Discourse on Method</i> (V) (excerpt), by René Descartes	284
5.13	“Minds, Brains, and Programs,” by John R. Searle	293
5.14	Bibliography and recommended reading	297
6	Personal identity	301
6.0	Identity	302
6.1	The body theory	306
6.2	The memory theory	310
6.3	The psychological continuity theory	313
6.4	The bundle theory	317
6.5	Summary	319
6.6	About the readings	320
6.7	“Learning to Be Me,” by Greg Egan	321
6.8	“The Psychological Continuity Theory,” by John Locke	333
6.9	“Of Personal Identity,” by Joseph Butler	337
6.10	“Was I Ever a Fetus?” by Eric T. Olson	339
6.11	Bibliography and recommended reading	349
7	Free will	353
7.0	Introducing the alternative theories	355
7.1	Principle of alternative possibilities	358
7.2	Libertarianism	359
7.3	Assessing libertarianism	361

7.4	Determinism	363
7.5	Assessing determinism	369
7.6	Compatibilism and senses of “can”	372
7.7	Hierarchical compatibilism	375
7.8	Assessing compatibilism	377
7.9	Summary	379
7.10	About the readings	380
7.11	“Norbert and the System,” by Timons Esaias	380
7.12	“On Behalf of Determinism,” by Thomas Hobbes	393
7.13	“Free Will: Alternatives and Sources,” by Kevin Timpe	397
7.14	Bibliography and recommended reading	409
	<i>Afterword</i>	412
	<i>Glossary</i>	413
	<i>Notes</i>	422
	<i>References</i>	426
	<i>Credits</i>	430
	<i>Index</i>	432