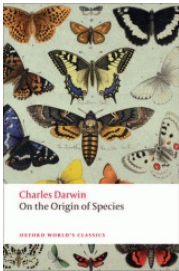


Big Questions: Classic Works for Contemporary Philosophy

These works all serve as great companions to various topics addressed in MPL's fall philosophy discussion course, "Big Questions." Every major topic we touch upon will have at least one important work associated with it here, so those who are interested will be able to follow up in depth on just about anything that piques their interest.

Created by johnstuartkill



On the origin of species

Charles Darwin ; edited with an introduction and notes by Gillian Beer.

In addition to being the founding document of modern evolutionary biology, Darwin's magnum opus is also a perfect example of elegant, undeniable reasoning...and it is also beautifully written. This work is a both a philosophical

and scientific masterpiece.

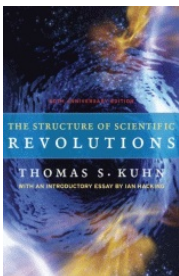


The matrix

Warner Bros. presents, in association with Village Roadshow Pictures-Groucho II Film Partnership, a Silver Pictures production ; produced by Joel Silver ; written and directed by the Wachowski Brothers. --

A great film, a true modern classic...but also filled with interesting philosophical questions about free will, perception, and truth (among others). Anyone hoping to dip their feet into "brain-in-a-vat"

arguments about reality and perception would do well to watch and rewatch this movie.

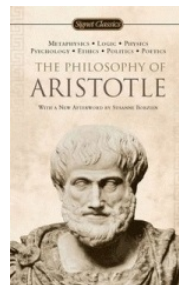


The structure of scientific revolutions

Thomas S. Kuhn ; with an introductory essay by Ian Hacking. --

This book changed not only the discourse on philosophy of science, but also the ways in which we think about developments in understanding and technology (if you've ever heard or used

the word "paradigm," you can thank Kuhn). Essential reading for subsequent work in and understanding of philosophy o...



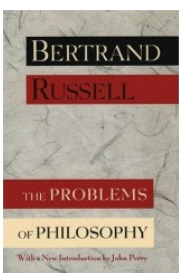
The philosophy of Aristotle

with an introduction and commentary by Renford Bambrough ; with a new afterword by Susanne Bobzien ; translations by J.L. Creed and A.E. Wardman. --

Almost all of Western philosophy can trace its roots through to Aristotle and Plato.

While much of this classic work is of primarily historical value, Aristotle's work on the nature of time, his moral philosophy, and numerous other subjects

remain both relevant and engaging.

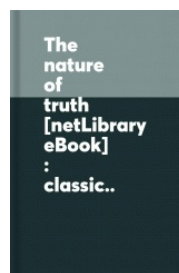


The problems of philosophy

Bertrand Russell ; with a new introduction by John Perry.

This survey work by one of the most prominent philosophers of the last hundred years covers the essentials of many different subjects, but it is most importantly a great way for beginners to access Russell's highly influential theories about truth and knowledge. This is a core

work for understanding...



The nature of truth

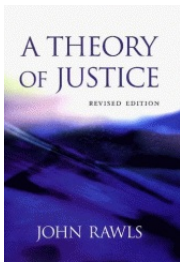
edited by Michael P. Lynch.

Virtually all of the most important works on meaning, language, metaphysics, and philosophical logic from the last century or so are either in this collection, or should first be accessed via these works.

Big Questions: Classic Works for Contemporary Philosophy

These works all serve as great companions to various topics addressed in MPL's fall philosophy discussion course, "Big Questions." Every major topic we touch upon will have at least one important work associated with it here, so those who are interested will be able to follow up in depth on just about anything that piques their interest.

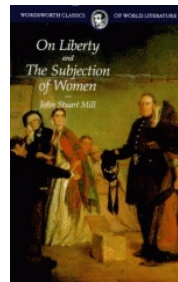
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A theory of justice

John Rawls. --

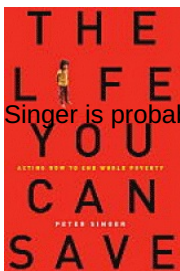
Without a doubt, the most important work of political philosophy since the 1850s (and arguably longer). Rawls sets the stage for how contemporary political philosophers reason and talk about what justice means and how it relates to the role of the state.



On liberty ; &, The subjection of women

John Stuart Mill ; with an introduction by Jane O'Grady.

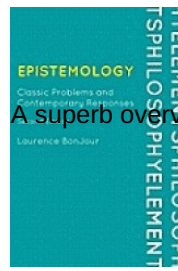
On Liberty is one of the most powerful, insightful, and beautifully written pieces of philosophy ever, period: everyone who values democracy at its core should read this. The Subjection of Women is also one of the great early works on what would eventually become feminist philosophy.



The life you can save

Peter Singer.

Singer is probably the most influential and most controversial living ethicist, with important contributions across virtually all disciplines of moral philosophy. This work is aimed at lay people and explores the nature and extent of our obligation to help others.



Epistemology

Laurence Bonjour.

A superb overview of both classic and contemporary issues in foundational epistemology. While intellectually challenging, much of this work remains accessible and rewarding even to amateurs with a serious interest in the problems of knowledge.