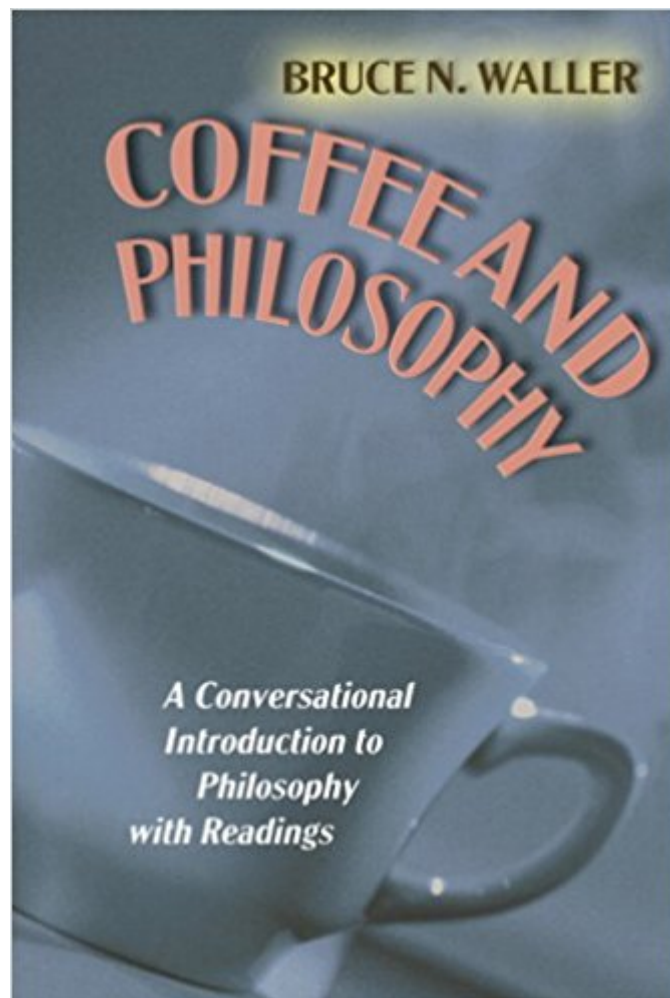




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Coffee And Philosophy: A Conversational Introduction To Philosophy With Readings



Synopsis

Coffee and Philosophy covers the major issues of philosophy in an inexpensive novel, using classic dialogue form and presenting ideas, arguments and counterarguments, objections, criticisms, questions and answers as a conversation among three college students.

Book Information

Paperback: 608 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

The book is a narrative for the most part. It produces philosophical arguments through 3 college students: 1 conservative, 1 liberal, and 1 moderate. The two opposing views strike up the argument and the moderate produces the most logically based solution.

It's great! Just some small highlighting inside the book which I don't mind because it is a used book. The highlighted areas are useful haha

Very low price, but not in very good condition.

Got it - served it's purpose:) Thanks!

Great book. It really makes Philosophy interesting and entertaining by reading the conversations of college students. I definitely recommend it to anyone interested in philosophy

The author presents a good deal of philosophical concepts, many of them difficult concepts, in a

fairly non-traditional format, namely one in which several college students discuss the topics, followed by excerpts from original writings on the matters being discussed. Because it is presented in a conversational format, it is generally easier to grasp than simply reading a philosophy textbook. However, the author is not especially good at making characters, which can frustrate anyone trying to relate to the minds of readers the students that are discussing the topics. The students are fairly stereotypical and different enough that the topics may come up: one is a history major Christian and acts for the standard free-will theist's point of view, one is a chemistry major atheist who is militant against theists, and the last one is a philosophy major who generally tries to play the teacher and moderator in discussions between the two. I generally enjoyed the beginning of the book, and it was informative and helpful in its presentation of several topics, but it did not treat some theist-atheist and free-will/determinism/fatalism topics fairly around the middle of the book, which is not very surprising since the Christian character seems rather oblivious as to his own faith and the atheist character can't attempt to support her own view without insulting the Christian character's view, making for poor representations of both points of view. Ultimately, I became frustrated and discarded the book as what had begun with good, simple, and relatable conversations about philosophy from the points of view of differing opinions degenerated. All in all, it had a book beginning and the first few chapters are helpful with introduction to philosophy topics, but the book quickly became less enjoyable for me.

While the table of contents for this book looks fairly conventional, the approach is not. Waller uses a delightful conversational style to place three friends, from varying backgrounds, who meet for coffee after their first class every morning, in the midst of traditional philosophical issues and contemporary responses to them. This is an excellent choice for introductory philosophy courses or for those who are looking for a good place to start their own exploration of philosophical perspectives. The dialogue is wonderful and could stand on its own; it is very effective in elucidating complex philosophical debates and has enough humor and spice, along with sincere exploration of the issues, to enhance student interest. Waller has added readings both classic and current to the text making this a thorough and readable approach.

This is a fine book if it was priced somewhere between 15 and 20 dollars, but the 60 dollar price tag is outrageous. The price of used copies reflects the true value of the book. It is sad that the United States textbook companies are making it more difficult for students to learn by their consistent gouging of student customers.

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