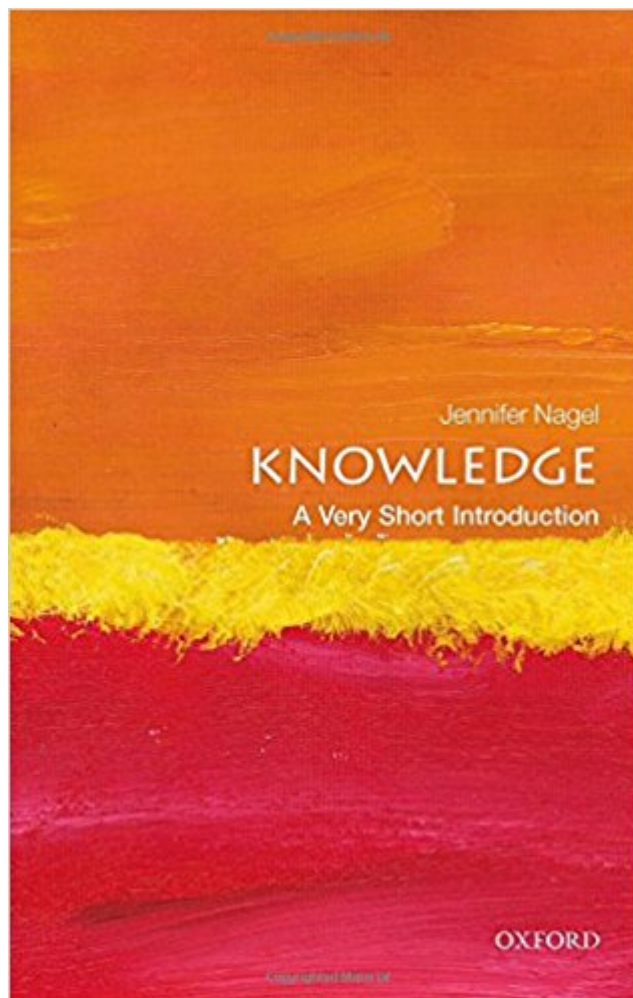




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Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

What is knowledge? How does it differ from mere belief? Do you need to be able to justify a claim in order to count as knowing it? How can we know that the outer world is real and not a dream? Questions like these are ancient ones, and the branch of philosophy dedicated to answering them - epistemology - has been active for thousands of years. In this thought-provoking Very Short Introduction, Jennifer Nagel considers these classic questions alongside new puzzles arising from recent discoveries about humanity, language, and the mind. Nagel explains the formation of major historical theories of knowledge, and shows how contemporary philosophers have developed new ways of understanding knowledge, using ideas from logic, linguistics, and psychology. Covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources, Nagel examines how progress has been made in understanding knowledge, using everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates.

ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[A]dmirably clear and engaging * Steven Poole, The Guardian * I am in love with this series - it's like having an extended course of study in one's rucksack or handbag that's designed to educate the

modern polymath. * GrrlScientist, Guardian Books *

Jennifer Nagel is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Associate Chair at the University of Toronto. Her research covers both historical and contemporary topics in epistemology. She has published on scepticism and empirical knowledge in Descartes and Locke and has also written a series of articles on intuitive ascriptions of knowledge.

The possibility of knowledge and the conditions one must observe in order to obtain it are examined in this book. Jennifer Nagel provides a good introduction to the subject, with emphasis in the skeptical tradition. A word about the presocratic conception of knowledge and some observations based on Plato and Aristotle ideas are provided, though the book could have given more attention to it. Descartes conception of knowledge and his response to skepticism is explained. This is an useful reading to understand crucial concepts of philosophy and a guide for future steps in the matter.

I picked up Nagel's book as a little refresher of epistemology. It is well-written, clear, and Nagel explains the basics of epistemology. Given it is a very short introduction, Nagel just scratches the surface. There's a wonderful 'Further Reading' section at the end that gives sources for further study.

As a Professor in Philosophy I love this books mainly because they ever so lightly cover the topics enough to get even the most critical proponent of any kind of philosophical though enough to get their gears working and at the bare minimum a question implanted. Then they realize that most people have been a student of philosophy all their lives.

Good, concise introduction to the theory of knowledge. Would suggest reading this along with a more in-depth introduction to gain a better understanding.

A clear, concise, thoughtful and critical introduction to theorizing about knowledge.

Excellent summery of contemporary epistemology.

This is an excellent, cursory introduction to epistemology, written by a well-qualified author. Clear

and understandable; quality publication in the superb "Very Short Introduction" series; appropriately price.

Good book. I recommend for anyone seeking higher knowledge in trying to understand why we do the things we do. The starting point for someone seeking truth and spiritual guidance is knowing the self.

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