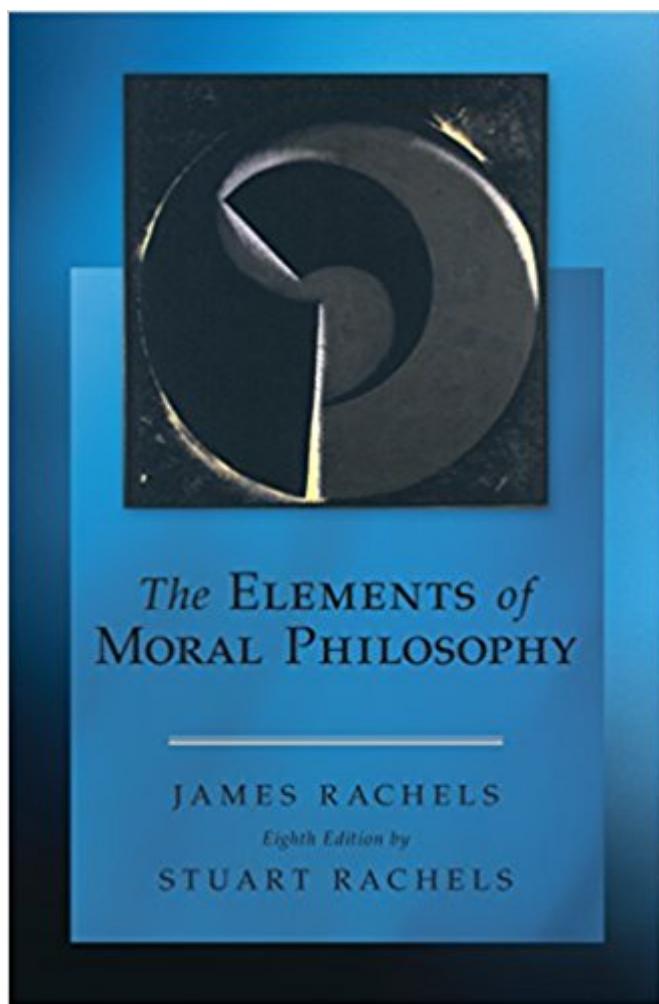


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The Elements Of Moral Philosophy (Philosophy & Religion)



Synopsis

The Elements of Moral Philosophy by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels is a best-selling text for undergraduate courses in ethics. Thirteen thought-provoking chapters introduce readers to major moral concepts and theories in philosophy through clear, understandable explanations and compelling discussions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I know a lot of educational programs are using this "textbook", but the real winner is the author. It is expensive for simply reading somebody's opinion on different philosophical concepts without many footnotes to even refer to.

This is the main book we use in my Introduction to Ethics class at the University of Kansas and it does a very good job at disproving the 4 common "failed" ethical theories that most people know about and provides an understandable explanation of the viable ethical theories today such as Utilitarianism and Social Contract Theory. It does not read like a textbook, it is very captivating and I would recommend it to anyone that is interested in a general understanding of ethical theory.

I rented this book for my Intro to Ethics class. I thought the class and this book were going to be boring, but I was wrong. I really enjoyed the class and this book. Every chapter was really interesting and I learned a lot from reading this book. Because of this book I now understand morality and ethics a little better and some of my views and beliefs even changed thanks to this book. I might just buy this book just so I have it in case I want a refresher on what I learned or if I just want to read it for fun.

I still have not finished the book - I will be using it for a class in the Spring and am pre-reading the book to help design the course and choose what chapters to read. The book is very easy to read, and the easily accessible logical structure is going to be very helpful for the students. I have only one minor critique, and that is there could be an introduction or glossary so that students that have no philosophy/ethical training can understand the terms that are used and have examples given of each term. If using this text in an introductory course I would recommend making a terms list and explaining the terms. Overall, the book is excellent as an introduction to moral philosophy as well as logical argument.

In today's world, we can all benefit from understanding this topic. This is a frequently cited college text and is very deep and broad in its coverage of the topic. I much prefer the Jonathan Sanford series which presents the same material using the context of pop culture references: My favorite two are: "Spider-Man and Philosophy: The Web of Inquiry" & "Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul". This is more of a textbook and as such is dryer but, is one of the highest rated on the topic you can find.

I am not widely read in ethics or philosophy in general. I took an introductory philosophy course as an undergrad and did not return to studying ethics until graduate school, which is where I came into contact with this book. For me, as a novice in ethics, I found Rachels' text enlightening. He neither dwells on theory too long nor dabbles too much in case studies. He provides enough to give you a foundational understanding of the big theories in ethics. Sure, there are probably holes in the material and you probably won't be able to dazzle others with your sudden powers of ethical thought, but it does get you to think about ethics in ways that are almost exciting. Compared to the other textbooks I had in my ethics class, this was a joy to read. The price, as others have said, is too high. But if you have to study it in class, you can't really get around that anyway.

This is an amazing read! I rented it for a Philosophy class and am tempted to buy it for myself. I am not a huge fan of the dense dry papers that are typical. Rachels&Rachels do a GREAT job at breaking down different ethical stances with contrasting views and real life examples. This book is a super easy and enjoyable read that will leave you thinking, you won't want to put the book down. Highly recommend to beginners and those who don't like the dense philosophy papers.

Although this book has great information, it is very basic and can be found in other texts that are much less expensive. When I received this in the mail, I could hardly believe how small and short it was in comparison to the price. If you have the extra 60 bucks to spare, it's worth it. Otherwise, I would suggest finding a book that more bang for your buck.

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