Philosophy
The Power of Ideas

Eighth Edition

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This is a straightforward introduction to philosophy written especially for first- and second-year university students. It contains separate historical overviews of the main subjects of Western philosophy and includes both the analytic and the Continental traditions. It also covers Eastern philosophy, postcolonial philosophy, and feminist philosophy. We hope readers will learn that thinking deeply about almost anything can lead them into philosophy.

The following are important changes in the eighth edition:

• A new section on contemporary analytic ontology and metaontology (including realism and anti-realism)
• Substantial revision of Chapter 14 on feminist philosophy, with a strengthened emphasis on the contributions of women to philosophical thought
• Expanded coverage of social constructions
• Expanded coverage of the Fine-Tuning Argument
• Expanded coverage of Intelligent Design
• Updated material on Antony Flew
• Expanded coverage from Richard Dawkins on the Anthropic Principle
• New readings by Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas, Paul Boghossian, Hélène Cixous, Nancy Chodorow, Carol Gilligan, Sandra Harding, Simone de Beauvoir, and Sherryl Kleinman
• More-concentrated presentation of postcolonial thought
• Streamlined coverage of private language
• Revised material on functionalism
• Updated visuals throughout
• Updated list of suggested readings
• Several new questions for discussion and review
Philosophy—Powerful Ideas

We concluded years ago that most people like philosophy if they understand it and that most understand it if it isn’t presented to them in exhausting prose. In this text we strive to make philosophy understandable while not oversimplifying.

We also concluded years ago that some people just aren’t moved by the subject. Worse, we learned that among those who aren’t are a few who are sane, intelligent, well informed, and reasonable and who generally have sound ideas about the world, vote for the right people, and are even worth having as friends. Philosophy is just not for everyone, and no text and no instructor can make it so.

So we do not expect every student, or even every bright student, who comes in contact with philosophy to love the field. But we do hope that every student who has had an introductory course in philosophy will learn that philosophy is more than inconsequential mental flexing. Philosophy contains powerful ideas, and it affects the lives of real people. Consequently, it must be handled with due care. The text makes this point clear.

Philosophy: A Worldwide Search for Wisdom and Understanding

Until the middle of the twentieth century, most philosophers and historians of ideas in American and European universities thought philosophical reflection occurred only within the tradition of disciplined discourse that began with the ancient Greeks and has continued into the present. This conception of philosophy has been changing, however, first through the interest in Eastern thought, especially Zen Buddhism, in the fifties, then through the increasingly widespread publication of high-quality translations and commentaries of texts from outside the Western tradition in the following decades. Of course, the availability of such texts does not mean that unfamiliar ideas will receive a careful hearing or even that they will receive any hearing at all.

Among the most challenging threads of the worldwide philosophical conversation is what has come to be known in recent years as postcolonial thought. The lines defining this way of thinking are not always easy to draw—but the same could be said for existentialism, phenomenology, and a number of other schools of thought in philosophy. In any event, in many cultures and subcultures around the world, thinkers are asking searching questions about methodology and fundamental beliefs that are intended to have practical, political consequences. Because these thinkers frequently intend their work to be revolutionary, their ideas run a higher-than-usual risk of being lost to philosophy’s traditional venues. We include in this book a small sample from such writers.

Women in the History of Philosophy

Histories of philosophy make scant mention of women philosophers prior to the latter half of the twentieth century. For a long time it was assumed that lack of mention was due to a deficit of influential women philosophers. Scholarship such as
that by Mary Ellen Waithe (*A History of Women Philosophers*) suggests that women have been more important in the history of philosophy than is often assumed. To date, we lack full-length translations and modern editions of the works of many women philosophers. Until this situation changes, Waithe argues, it is difficult to reconstruct the history of the discipline with accuracy.

This text acknowledges the contributions of at least some women to the history of philosophy. We include women philosophers throughout the text in their historical contexts, and we also present a substantially revised chapter on feminist philosophy.

### Features

Among what we think are the nicer attributes of this book are these:

- Separate histories of metaphysics and epistemology; the Continental, pragmatic, and analytic traditions; moral and political philosophy; feminist philosophy; and the philosophy of religion
- Coverage of postmodernism and multiculturalism
- A section titled “Other Voices,” which contains chapters on Eastern influences, feminist philosophy, and postcolonial thought
- Recognition of specific contributions of women to philosophy
- A generous supply of easy, original readings that don’t overwhelm beginning students
- Boxes highlighting important concepts, principles, and distinctions or containing interesting anecdotes or historical asides
- Biographical profiles of many of the great philosophers
- End-of-chapter checklists of key philosophers and concepts, with mini-summaries of the philosophers’ leading ideas
- End-of-chapter questions for review and reflection and lists of additional sources
- A pronunciation guide to the names of philosophers
- A brief subsection on American constitutional theory
- A glossary/index that defines important concepts on the spot
- Teachable four-part organization: (1) Metaphysics and Epistemology, (2) Moral and Political Philosophy, (3) Philosophy of Religion, and (4) Other Voices
- A section on arguments and fallacies

In addition, we’ve reduced this edition by about 50 pages—without sacrificing coverage, we hope.

### Supplements

- The Online Learning Center is available at www.mhhe.com/moore8e.
- The resources available for students include: self-assessment quizzes, student study guide, an internet guide, timelines, and glossary.
The resources available for instructors include: PowerPoint presentations, Test Bank, and Instructors Manual are available on the password-protected portion of the Online Learning Center. Please ask your McGraw-Hill representative for access information.

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