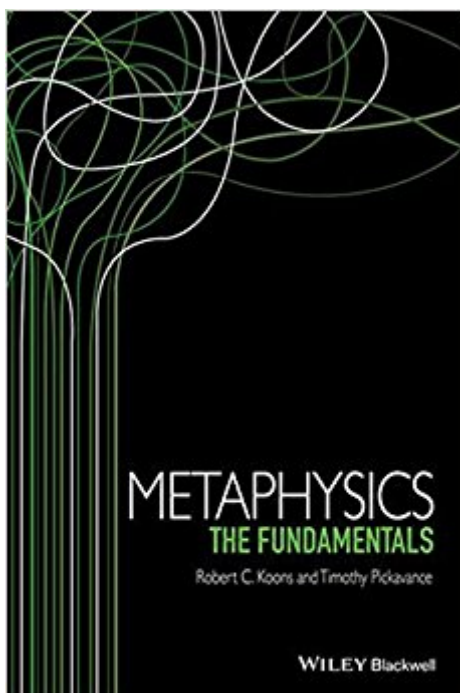


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Metaphysics: The Fundamentals (Fundamentals Of Philosophy)



Synopsis

Metaphysics: The Fundamentals presents readers with a systematic, comprehensive introductory overview of modern analytic metaphysics. Presents an accessible, up-to-date and broad-ranging survey of one of the most dynamic and often daunting sub-fields in contemporary philosophy. Introduces readers to the seminal works of contemporary and historic philosophers, including Descartes, Leibniz, Russell, David Lewis, Alvin Plantinga, Kit Fine, Peter van Inwagen, John Hawthorne and many others. Explores key questions while identifying important assumptions, axioms, and methodological principles. Addresses topics in ontology, modality, causality, and universals; as well as issues surrounding material composition, persistence, space, and time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Koons and Pickavance disclose uncommon and provocative insights regarding the role of Hirschian Exotic Objects in the perdurantism debate, and Powerist objections to the possibility of time travel, without swamping the reader in backstory. In conclusion, *Metaphysics: The Fundamentals* provides a compendium of sources and tricky examples for any researcher seeking familiarization with a range of debates. - Nicholas Danne, *Metaphysica* 2017; 18(1): 151-154.

“Robert C. Koons and Timothy H. Pickavance have mastered the art of succinct and non-technical digression. They are to be commended for their clear summaries. And, most important, they write in a way that invites readers to make up their own minds without attempting to

conceal their own conclusions. As a result they have written a refreshingly different introduction to metaphysics, which I highly recommend. — Peter Forrest, University of New England "A superb overview of the central issues in contemporary metaphysics, written with clarity and rigor, exploring both particular issues and deep structural divides." — Alexander R. Pruss, Baylor University

The authors attempt to give an overview of not one impossibly difficult subject, but *dozens* of impossibly difficult subjects that are all closely interlinked with one another -- while explaining both sides of the contemporary debate for every issue and citing sources appropriately, using widely accepted terminology, without compromising clarity for beginners like me. While there are moments when they seem to go off on a bit of a tangent, or get a little bit too wrapped up in their terms (which is something I'm told analytic philosophers are prone to do), the book is, for the most part, a resounding success, and was an excellent companion to me in my undergraduate Intro to Metaphysics class. I couldn't write this, and neither could you; thank goodness Koons and Pickavance did. Unfortunately, the book persuaded me that books don't exist, so take my review of this non-book with a grain of salt. :)

Having read some on the subjects of time and possible worlds, I was surprised by the lucidity of insights provided in this introduction. The authors give a helpful foray into trope theory, and demarcate the parties debating causation and laws of nature. They masterfully manage a complex discussion on composition, keeping the reader oriented and encouraged. My only complaint is that they make some of their points — important, load-bearing points — extremely fast, in a sentence or two. In other places also I wish the book were longer, especially on the relationships between universals and laws of nature. But if you want to canvass the fundamentals, this book is time well-spent.

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