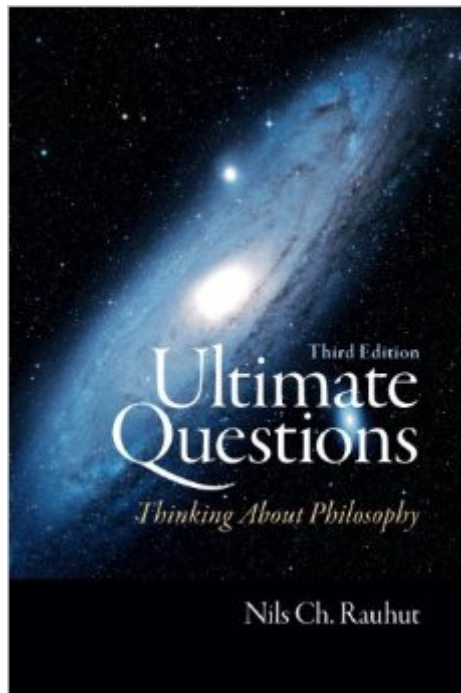


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Ultimate Questions: Thinking About Philosophy (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

This inexpensive and brief text examines the main problems in contemporary philosophy and uses more than 100 "Food for Thought" exercises to promote critical thinking and help students become active learners of philosophy. The book is intended for use by professors teaching a problems-oriented course, but is structured to appeal to any reader willing to explore subjects such as free will, personal identity, existence of God, and more. "Ultimate Questions" explores how the timeless problems of Western philosophy are located inside our ordinary ways of thinking and being. It encourages readers to think about philosophy first-hand by using vivid and engaging examples. It also introduces readers to prominent up-to-date theories being applied to the same problems encountered by contemporary analytic philosophers. After reading this text, students will gain a better sense of how mysterious their own natures really are.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've really had a difficult time finding decent books to use in teaching my introductory philosophy courses. Given all the approaches one could take to a first introduction to philosophy, e.g., historical, secondary-literary synopsis, excerpts of works on big issues, and a survey of the most important texts in philosophy, I think Rauhut's books are some of the better ones I've found. In the way that I just phrased that last remark I hope it is clear that I have reservations. Let me say what's good about this book, first, then I'll remark on a few of its shortcomings. One of the things this book has going for it is that Rauhut covered some of the big issues in philosophy, and has a correlated text with excerpts from all the best papers pertaining to the subject. That is, the individual topics in this book, which constitute its chapters, focuses (e.g., morality, the god

question, the basic question of epistemology, namely, how can we know anything, etc.) has a sort of companion text (â œReadings on the Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophyâ •), in which the chapter are filled with portions of text written by great philosophers in history, as well as contemporary scholars in philosophy departments, sometimes referred to as â œphilosophers.â • Taken together, the potency of this text (and the other one, too), â œUltimate Questionsâ • triple their value. This text is clearly written and reasonably well thought out. One of the things it does more, which I think other texts need to do, is include diagrams, such as flow diagrams. Being a secondary text, whose function is, primarily, to explain the big issues in a somewhat thorough, yet quick way, requires a great deal of organization. I think this book achieves this with its setup and clear communication.

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