



The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy

By Norman Melchert

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Now in its fifth edition, this historically organized introductory text treats philosophy as a dramatic and continuous story--a conversation about humankind's deepest and most persistent concerns. Tracing the exchange of ideas between history's key philosophers, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, Fifth Edition, demonstrates that while constructing an argument or making a claim, one philosopher almost always has others in mind. The book addresses the fundamental questions of human life: Who are we? What can we know? How should we live? and What sort of reality do we inhabit?

The fifth edition retains the distinctive feature of previous editions: author Norman Melchert provides a generous selection of excerpts from major philosophical works and makes them more easily understandable to students with his lucid and engaging explanations. Ranging from the Pre-Socratics to Derrida and Quine, the selections are organized historically and include four complete works: Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito*, and Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*. The author's commentary offers a rich intellectual and cultural context for the philosophical ideas conveyed in the excerpts. Extensive cross-referencing shows students how philosophers respond appreciatively or critically to the thoughts of other philosophers. The text is enhanced by two types of exercises--"Basic Questions" and "For Further Thought"--and more than sixty illustrations.

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- * A new chapter (25) on Simone de Beauvoir and her contributions to philosophy
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- * Review questions that are now dispersed throughout the chapters (instead of at chapter ends) to follow relevant passages and facilitate classroom discussion

* Thirteen new images, including seven explanatory cartoons that help students understand key concepts

* A revised Instructor's Manual and Test Bank--available both on CD and in a printed version--containing essential points, teaching suggestions, and multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay exam questions

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Editorial Review

Review

"*The Great Conversation*, Fifth Edition, is unquestionably the best philosophy textbook I have ever read. My students love the book. Melchert writes with utter clarity and his examples are superb. His careful choice of primary sources and brilliant use of them in his prose is nothing short of genius. I generally cringe at the wooden writing style of textbooks, and find some philosophy texts particularly deadly. Melchert's text shatters all of my textbook nightmares."--Thomas Bell, *Brevard College*

About the Author

Norman Melchert is at Lehigh University (Emeritus).

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The feeling that you get from *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy* is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy* giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read this because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy* instantly.

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