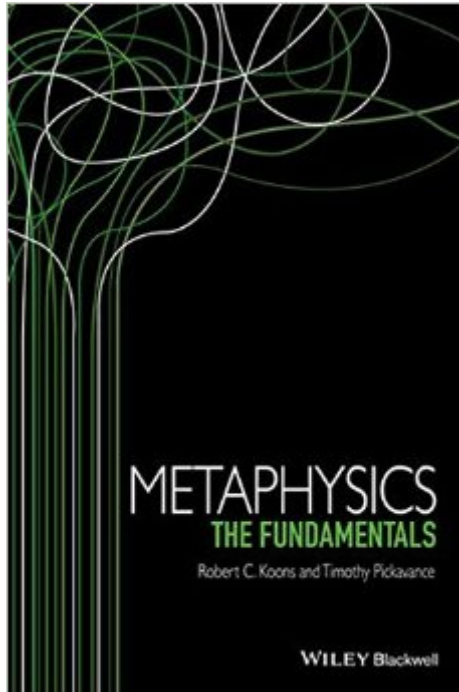


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Metaphysics: The Fundamentals (Fundamentals Of Philosophy)



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

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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