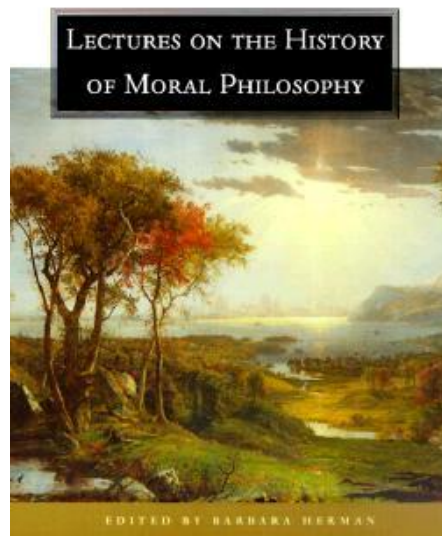


JOHN RAWLS



Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy

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Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy John Rawls

The premier political philosopher of his day, John Rawls, in three decades of teaching at Harvard, has had a profound influence on the way philosophical ethics is approached and understood today. This book brings together the lectures that inspired a generation of students--and a regeneration of moral philosophy. It invites readers to learn from the most noted exemplars of modern moral philosophy with the inspired guidance of one of contemporary philosophy's most noteworthy practitioners and teachers.

Central to Rawls's approach is the idea that respectful attention to the great texts of our tradition can lead to a fruitful exchange of ideas across the centuries. In this spirit, his book engages thinkers such as Leibniz, Hume, Kant, and Hegel as they struggle in brilliant and instructive ways to define the role of a moral conception in human life. The lectures delineate four basic types of moral reasoning: perfectionism, utilitarianism, intuitionism, and--the ultimate focus of Rawls's course--Kantian constructivism. Comprising a superb course on the history of moral philosophy, they also afford unique insight into how John Rawls has transformed our view of this history.

Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy Details

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Arbitrista says

It's an amazing thing to read an interpretation of the great thinkers of moral philosophy from a great moral philosopher. I suppose that in some sense every work of ethics is a commentary on past works, but Rawls's approach is deeply respectful of his interlocutors. He isn't trying to score points off of them here - he is trying to teach his students to appreciate the strengths of given ways of thought in their own terms. We should all be so lucky.

Jonny Berglind says

Brilliant account of the history of moral philosophy.

Craig Bolton says

Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy by John Rawls (2000)

Kramer Thompson says

I quite liked the section in here on Hume, and the Hegel section was also fairly enjoyable. However, I found the sections on Leibniz quite confusing, and many of the Kant sections tedious. That said, this may just have been due to the fact that the sections were about Leibniz and Kant (making Kant enjoyable would have been quite impressive). Still, I found much of this book quite difficult to remain engaged with. I suspect Rawls's writing style, at least in this book, just does not mesh properly with me. Despite all this, Rawls's discussions of many topics within the entire book are balanced and insightful, and I think my understanding of the four philosophers he discusses has been improved.
