Contents

Preface xiii

INTRODUCTION
THE NATURE OF PHILOSOPHY 1

CHAPTER 1 What Is Philosophy? 3
The Word Itself 4
The Fields of Philosophy 4
A Rational, Critical Enterprise 8
Differing Conceptions 13
A Working Definition 16
Chapter 1 in Review 19

READINGS FROM:
CHAPTER 2  A Little Logic  22
The Three Laws of Thought  23
What Is an Argument?  25
Deductive Reasoning  27
Inductive Reasoning  30
Informal Fallacies  33
Chapter 2 in Review  36

PART ONE  
THE QUESTION OF REALITY  39

CHAPTER 3  The Idea of Form  41
Plato and Socrates  41
The Two Worlds: Appearance and Reality  44
The Theory of the Forms  49
Degrees of Reality and Knowledge  56
The Good, the Sun, and the Cave  59
Aristotle's Criticism of Plato  66
Aristotle's View of Form  69
After Plato and Aristotle  72
Chapter 3 in Review  75

READINGS FROM:

CHAPTER 4  Mind and Matter  79
Descartes: The Father of Modern Philosophy  80
"What Can I Know for Certain?"  81
The Intuition of Mind  81
The Deduction of God  87
The Deduction of Matter  91
Some Objections  95
The Mind-Body Problem  95
Mind: A Set of Dispositions or Functions  99
Chapter 4 in Review  103

READINGS FROM:
CHAPTER 5 Materialism

What Is Materialism? 107
Man a Machine 113
The New Materialism 117
Are the Mind and Body Identical? 121
Beyond Freedom and Dignity: Skinner 126
Are All Things Determined? 132
Chapter 5 in Review 135

READINGS FROM:
Lucretius, The Nature of Things; Hobbes, Leviathan; Laplace, A
Philosophical Essay on Probabilities; La Mettrie, Man a Machine; Hanson,
The Dematerialization of Matter; Smart, "Materialism"; Taylor,
Metaphysics; Churchland, Matter and Consciousness; Danto, Connections
to the World; Skinner, Beyond Freedom and Dignity

PART TWO

THE QUESTION OF KNOWLEDGE

CHAPTER 6 The Way of Reason

Two Main Theories about the Basis of Knowledge 141
Reason as the Basis of Knowledge 142
The Rationalism of Plato 144
The Rationalism of Descartes 152
A Contemporary Version: Chomsky 158
Chapter 6 in Review 163

READINGS FROM:
Plato, Phaedo; Descartes, Discourse on Method, Rules for the Direction of the
Mind; Chomsky, Aspects of the Theory of Syntax, "Language and the Mind"

CHAPTER 7 The Way of Experience

What Is Empiricism? 167
Classical Empiricism: Aristotle and St. Thomas 168
Modern Empiricism: Locke 172
Radical Empiricism: Hume 184
Chapter 7 in Review 193

READINGS FROM:
Aristotle, Posterior Analytics; St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae;
Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding; Hume, A Treatise
of Human Nature, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
CHAPTER 8 The Problem of Certainty

Kant and Hume 198
Some Important Terminology 198
Is There Synthetic A Priori Knowledge? 200
The Limits of Reason 209
Chapter 8 in Review 211

READINGS FROM:
Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, Critique of Pure Reason

PART THREE
THE QUESTION OF GOD 215

CHAPTER 9 God and the World

Natural Theology 219
The Cosmological Argument 230
The Teleological Argument 233
The Problem of Causality 242
Chapter 9 in Review 248

READINGS FROM:
Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion; St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Summa Contra Gentiles; Jastrow, God and the Astronomers; Paley, Natural Theology; Tennant, Philosophical Theology; Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion; Kant, Critique of Pure Reason

CHAPTER 10 Religious Experience

The Experience of the Numinous 254
The Mystical Ascent 258
Mysticisms East 268
The Way of Zen 272
Is Religious Experience Evidence for God? 281
Chapter 10 in Review 288

READINGS FROM:
CHAPTER 11  God and Evil  292

What Is the Problem?  292
Some Solutions  296
Evil as a Privation of Goodness  301
The Free-Will Defense  305
Evil as Therapy  311
Evil Is Irrational  317
Chapter 11 in Review  322

READINGS FROM:
Mill, Three Essays on Religion; Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural
Religion; St. Augustine, The Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Love, On Free
Choice of the Will; Plantinga, God, Freedom, and Evil; Mackie, “Evil and
Omnipotence”; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Hick, Evil and the God of Love;
Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays, The Plague

PART FOUR
THE QUESTION OF MORALITY  327

CHAPTER 12  Challenges to Morality  329

The Challenge of Logical Positivism  330
The Challenge of Relativism  336
The Challenge of Existentialism  340
The Challenge of Determinism  351
Chapter 12 in Review  360

READINGS FROM:
Blanshard, “The New Subjectivism in Ethics”; Ayer, Language, Truth and
Logic; Skinner, Beyond Freedom and Dignity; Benedict, “Anthropology and
the Abnormal”; Sartre, “Existentialism”; de Beauvoir, The Second Sex;
Marcel, The Philosophy of Existentialism; Hume, An Enquiry Concerning
Human Understanding; D’Holbach, The System of Nature; Stace, Religion
and the Modern Mind; Frankena, Ethics

CHAPTER 13  Utilitarianism  364

What Is Utilitarianism?  365
Bentham’s Version: Quantity over Quality  366
Mill’s Version: Quality over Quantity  369
Act-Utilitarianism/Rule-Utilitarianism  380
Some Objections  384
Chapter 13 in Review  388
READINGS FROM:
Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*;

CHAPTER 14  The Role of Duty  392
Morality as Unconditional  392
The Good Will  398
Kant's Categorical Imperative  401
The Test of Moral Actions  403
Some Objections  407
Chapter 14 in Review  409

READINGS FROM:
Beck, Preface to translation of Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*; Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*

PART FIVE
THE QUESTION OF SOCIETY  413

CHAPTER 15  Liberalism vs. Marxism  415
The Liberal Perspective: Locke  415
Liberalism and Capitalism  425
A Radical Response: Marx  430
Some Objections  435
Is Prosperity a Deception? Hospers vs. Marcuse  436
Chapter 15 in Review  442

READINGS FROM:

Glossary  447
Acknowledgments  473
Index  479
About the Author  492