

# CONTENTS

*Preface* ix  
*Acknowledgments* xvii

## PART ONE

*BEYOND OBJECTIVISM AND RELATIVISM: AN OVERVIEW* 1  
*Objectivism and Relativism* 8  
*The Cartesian Anxiety* 16  
*Postempiricist Philosophy and History of Science* 20  
*The Idea of a Social Science* 25  
*The Recovery of the Hermeneutical Dimension of Science* 30  
*Philosophic Hermeneutics: A Primordial Mode of Being* 34  
*Hermeneutics and Praxis* 38  
*Political Judgment and Practical Discourse* 44  
*Science, Hermeneutics, and Praxis* 45

PART TWO

SCIENCE, RATIONALITY, AND INCOMMENSURABILITY 51  
*The Practical Rationality of Theory-Choice* 52  
*Kuhn and His Critics: The Common Ground* 61  
*The Development of the Philosophy of Science* 71  
*Incommensurability and the Natural Sciences* 79  
*Incommensurability and the Social Disciplines* 93

PART THREE

FROM HERMENEUTICS TO PRAXIS 109  
*The Cartesian Legacy* 115  
*Truth and the Experience of Art* 118  
*Understanding and Prejudice* 126  
*The Hermeneutical Circle* 131  
*Temporal Distance, Effective-Historical Consciousness, and the Fusion of Horizons* 139  
*Application: The Rediscovery of the Fundamental Hermeneutical Problem* 144  
*The Movement Beyond Philosophic Hermeneutics* 150  
*Philosophic Hermeneutics and the Cartesian Anxiety* 165

PART FOUR

PRAXIS, PRACTICAL DISCOURSE, AND JUDGMENT 171  
*A Historical Interlude* 175  
*Practical Discourse: Habermas* 182  
*Rorty's Metacritique* 197  
*Judgment: Arendt* 207  
*Beyond Objectivism and Relativism: The Practical Task* 223  
Notes 233  
*Appendix: A Letter by Professor Hans-Georg Gadamer* 261  
Bibliography 267  
Subject Index 277  
Index of Names 282