The Blackwell Guide to Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, Martin Ostwald

Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics is perhaps the most important work of ancient Greek philosophy. It is a fundamental text in the study of ethics, and it has been widely discussed and analyzed by scholars for centuries. The Nicomachean Ethics is a collection of essays that explore the nature of virtue, the concept of the happy life, and the relationship between human action and moral character. The essays are organized around the concept of the mean, which is Aristotle’s central idea for understanding virtue. The mean is the balance between excess and deficiency, and it is the key to understanding how to live a good life.

The Nicomachean Ethics is divided into ten books, each of which explores a different aspect of ethical life. The first book deals with the nature of virtue, and it introduces the concept of the mean. The second book discusses the nature of the happy life, and it explains how virtue is necessary for happiness. The third book explores the nature of good and evil, and it distinguishes between the two. The fourth book deals with the nature of the soul, and it explains how the soul is divided into three parts: the rational part, the appetitive part, and the concupiscible part. The fifth book explores the nature of the good, and it explains how the good is the supreme end of human life. The sixth book deals with the nature of the human good, and it explains how the good is the supreme good for humans.

The seventh book explores the nature of the polity, and it explains how the good is the supreme good for states. The eighth book deals with the nature of the just, and it explains how the just is the supreme good for all human beings. The ninth book explores the nature of the soul, and it explains how the soul is divided into three parts: the rational part, the appetitive part, and the concupiscible part. The tenth book deals with the nature of the good, and it explains how the good is the supreme end of human life.

The Nicomachean Ethics is a complex and difficult text, and it requires careful study and analysis. It is a major work in the history of philosophy, and it is still widely studied and discussed today. The Blackwell Guide to Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics is a valuable resource for anyone interested in studying this important text. It provides a comprehensive introduction to the text, and it offers a wide range of resources for further study and analysis. The guide is an important tool for anyone who wants to understand the significance of the Nicomachean Ethics in the history of philosophy.
explanation, for a modern audience, of some crucial terms by which the ancient Greeks saw and lived their lives—and influenced ours. Chosen and sequenced by Ostwald, the essays demonstrate his methodology and elucidate essential aspects of ancient Greek society. The first section plumbs the social and political terms in which the Greeks understood their lives. It examines their notion of the relation of the citizen to his community; how they conceived different kinds of political structure; what role ideology played in public life; and how differently their most powerful thinkers viewed issues of war and peace. The second section is devoted to the problem, first articulated by the Greeks, of the extent to which human life is dominated by nature (physis) and human convention (nomos), a question that remains a central concern in modern societies, even if in different guises. The third section focuses on democracy in Athens. It confronts questions of the nature of democratic rule, of the accountability of public officials, of the conflict raised by imperial control and democratic rule, of the coexistence of "conservative" and "liberal" trends in a democratic regime, and of the relation between rhetoric and power in a democracy. The final section is a sketch of the principles on which the two greatest Greek historians, Herodotus and Thucydides, constructed their outlooks on human affairs. Ultimately, the collection intends to make selected key concepts in ancient Greek social and political culture accessible to a lay audience. It also shows how the differences—rather than the similarities—between the ancient Greeks and us can contribute to a deeper understanding of our own time.

This book charts a course through the equally inadequate options of despair and optimism to a responsible understanding and practice of Christian hope.

Library of Liberal Arts title.

Looks at the meaning of reverence and its role in religion and society.

Presents Aristotle’s celebrated work setting forth his system of moral philosophy.

Intended as an introduction to the definition of oligarchy, this concise study guides the reader through the ideologies of Plato and Aristotle and compares theoretical oligarchy with its practice. Ostwald also examines the benefits and disadvantages of oligarchical citizenship.

"The emergence of virtue ethics, which might be the most significant development in contemporary ethics, takes Aristotle’s ethics as the most important paradigm. Aristotle’s ethical thinking, in contrast to modern Western moral philosophy, starts with a reflection on human life as a whole instead of on some moral acts, and focuses on character and virtue instead of on principles and rules. This way of doing ethics is shared by Confucius. First, Confucius seeks to find the human dao, i.e. the way to become a good person. Second, to become a good person, one must cultivate de, that is, a dispositional character (indeed, de has been generally translated as “virtue” in English). Confucius calls this dispositional character ren. Ren has been generally translated as “benevolence” or “humanity,” but is also widely referred to as “virtue,” “complete virtue,” or “cardinal virtue.” “It is in elaborating how one person can become a good person by cultivating ren that Confucius reflects on and discusses issues such as human nature and its fulfillment, the doctrine of the mean, the role of social customs and traditions, self-cultivation and moral education, love, family, virtue politics, moral emotion, moral reasoning, family, and so on. These are also the central themes in Aristotle’s theory of virtue. To a great extent, Aristotle’s ethics is taken as the model in contemporary virtue ethics precisely because these important ethical concerns have been left out or at least marginalized in dominant modern moral theories.”—Jacket.

Fascinating discussions of fifth-century Athens and its modern interpretation

This book contemplates the ethics of responsibility in a large range of meanings, consequences and impacts. It reflects the perspectives and reasoning of 24 authors from all continents. All chapters are original papers presented at the Fifth World ISBEE Congress, that took place in Warsaw, Poland, at the Kozminski University, on 11-14 of July, 2012. In this book, ethics and responsibility are considered essential traits of character, not only in the business or governmental arenas but in any initiative, decision and activity. The contributions to this book focus on a spectrum of themes, terms and concepts, the global corporate social responsibilities perspective covering impacts, challenges, analysis, criticism, consequences of important topics of real life, sustainability, international economy and regimes, corruption, poverty and violence, among others. The book is intended for academics, researchers and professionals in all continents who are dedicated to Ethics, Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Innovation, and Sustainability Management.

This highly anticipated anthology, compiled by noted author and scholar Steven Cahn, presents the seven major works central to any introductory philosophy course in their entirety. Each work has had a profound influence on philosophical thought, and the authors are generally regarded as among the world’s greatest philosophers. Seven Masterpieces in Philosophy features the most well-respected and admired translations, and offers introductions and annotations by Steven Cahn, Anyone seeking to understand the challenges of philosophy could hardly do better than concentrate attention on these seven masterpieces. A great alternative to larger tomes, this book allows the instructor to supplement these works with additional materials of their choosing.

Analyzing the "democratic" features and institutions of the Athenian democracy in the fifth century B.C., Martin Ostwald traces their development from Solon’s judicial reforms to the flowering of popular sovereignty, when the people assumed the right both to enact all legislation and to hold magistrates accountable for implementing what had been enacted.

In Moral Creativity, John Wall argues that moral life and thought are inherently and radically creative. Human beings are called by their own primordially created depths to exceed historical evil and tragedy through the ongoing creative transformation of their world. This thesis challenges ancient Greek and biblical separations of ethics and poetic image-making, as well as contemporary conceptions of moral life as grounded in abstract principles or preconstituted traditions. Taking as his point of departure the poetics of the will of Paul Ricoeur, and ranging widely into critical conversations with Continental, narrative, feminist, and liberalization ethics, Wall uncovers the profound senses in which moral practice and thought involve tension, catharsis, excess, and renewal. In the process, he draws new connections between sin and tragedy, practice and poetics, and morality and myth. Rather than proposing a complete ethics, Moral Creativity is a meta-ethical work investigating the creative capability as part of what it means, morally, to be human. This capability is explored around four dimensions of ontology, teleology, deontology, and social practice. In each case, Wall examines a traditional perspective on the relation of ethics to poetics, critiques it using resources from contemporary phenomenology, and develops a conception of a more original poetics of moral life. In the end, moral creativity is a human capability for inhabiting tensions among others and in social systems and, in the image of a Creator, creating together an ever more radically inclusive moral world.

The papers gathered in this volume offer precise investigations of the historical and philosophical grounds for the first medieval commentaries on the Nicomachean Ethics. This commentary was produced by Byzantine philosophers in twelfth-century Constantinople.

Presents the Nicomachean Ethics as a work of political philosophy, emphasizing the interplay between its practical political concerns and its underlying philosophic perspective and arguing that it is rhetorical in the precise Aristotelian meaning of the term.

This collection of speeches and essays clarifies Gadamer’s thoughts on the power of language, the social role and influence of science, and the idea of reason. He argues that the theoretical pursuit of truth is valuable for its own sake, and devalued when pursued explicitly for practical purposes.

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