

African Religions A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction History Information: A Very Short Introduction Everything Knowledge Education: A Very Short Introduction Writing and Script Theology: A Very Short Introduction The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction International Relations Thinking and Reasoning Organizations Russian Literature: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction Music: A Very Short Introduction Emotion: A Very Short Introduction Measurement Thought: A Very Short Introduction Literary Theory John Heskett John H. Arnold Luciano Floridi Philip Ball Jennifer Nagel Gary Thomas Andrew Robinson David Ford Linda Greenhouse Christian Reus-Smit Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Mary Jo Hatch Catriona Kelly Timothy Gowers Robert J. C. Young Nicholas Cook Dylan Evans David J. Hand Tim Bayne Jonathan Culler

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this book will transform the way you think about design by showing how integral it is to our daily lives from the spoon we use to eat our breakfast cereal to the medical equipment used to save lives john heskett goes beyond style and taste to look at how different cultures and individuals personalise objects

there are many stories we can tell about the past and we are not perhaps as free as we might imagine in our choice of which stories to tell or where those stories end john arnold s very short introduction is a stimulating essay about how we study and understand history the book begins by inviting us to think about various questions provoked by our investigation of history and explores the ways these questions have been answered in the past concepts such as causation interpretation and periodization are introduced by means of concrete examples of how historians work giving the reader a sense of the excitement of discovering not only the past but also ourselves about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis

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introduction 1 the information revolution 2 the language of information 3 mathematical information 4 semantic information 5 physical information 6 biological information 7 economic information 8 the ethics of information conclusion references

sample sections from the very short introductions series are presented in this encapsulation of human knowledge

human beings naturally desire knowledge but what is knowledge is it the same as having an opinion highlighting the major developments in the theory of knowledge from ancient greece to the present day jennifer nagel uses a number of simple everyday examples to explore the key themes and current debates of epistemology

from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved has it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

without writing there would be no records no history no books and no emails writing is an integral and essential part of our lives but when did it start why do we all write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today all of these questions are answered in this very short introduction starting with the origins of writing five thousand years ago with cuneiform and egyptian hieroglyphs andrew robinson explains how these early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the roman alphabet and the chinese characters he reveals how the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today including airport signage and text messaging resemble ancient ones much more closely than we might think about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this is an introduction to the subject of academic theology its basic approach is interrogative raising key questions so as to lead into a range of selected topics such as knowledge community salvation god prayer and evil

for 30 years pulitzer prize winning journalist linda greenhouse chronicled the activities of the u s supreme court and its justices as a correspondent for the new york times in this very short introduction she draws on her deep knowledge of the court s history and of its written and unwritten rules to show readers how the supreme court really works greenhouse offers a fascinating institutional biography of a place and its people men and women who exercise great power but whose names and faces are unrecognized by many americans and whose work often appears cloaked in mystery how do cases get to the supreme court how do the justices go about deciding them what special role does the chief justice play what do the law clerks do how does the court relate to the other branches of government greenhouse answers these questions by depicting the justices as they confront deep constitutional issues or wrestle with the meaning of confusing federal statutes throughout the author examines many individual supreme court cases to illustrate points under discussion ranging from marbury v madison the seminal case which established judicial review to the recent district of columbia v heller 2008 which struck down the district of columbia s gun control statute and which was surprisingly the first time in its history that the court issued an authoritative interpretation of the second amendment to add perspective greenhouse also compares the court to foreign courts revealing interesting differences for instance no other country in the world has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges the second edition of greenhouse s very short introduction tracks the changes in the court s makeup over the last eight years considers the landmark decisions of the obama and trump eras and reexamines the precarious fates of such precedents as roe v wade a superb overview packed with telling details this volume offers a matchless introduction to one of the pillars of american government

international relations affects everyone s lives their security economic well being rights and freedoms and the environment they share this book explores international relations central concerns with the changing way that political authority is organised globally and provides the theoretical tools to understand the dynamics of the field

thinking is the essence of what it means to be human and defines us more than anything else as a species jonathan evans explores cognitive psychological approaches to understanding the nature of thinking and reasoning problem solving and decision making

most of us recognize that organizations are everywhere you meet them on every street corner in the form of families and shops study in them work for them buy from them pay taxes to them but have you given much thought to where they came from what they are today and what they might become in the future how and why do they have so much influence over us and what influences them how do they contribute to and detract from the meaningfulness of lives and how might we improve them so they better serve our needs and desires this very short introduction addresses all of these questions and considers many more mary jo hatch introduces the concept of organizations by presenting definitions and ideas drawn from the a variety of subject areas including the physical

sciences economics sociology psychology anthropology literature and the visual and performing arts drawing on examples from prehistory and everyday life from the animal kingdom as well as from business government and other formal organizations hatch provides a lively and thought provoking introduction to the process of organization about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this book is intended to capture the interest of anyone who has been attracted to russian culture through the greats of russian literature either through the texts themselves or encountering them in the cinema or opera rather than a conventional chronology of russian literature the book will explore the place and importance of literature of all sorts in russian culture how and when did a russian national literature come into being what shaped its creation how have the russians regarded their literary language the book will use the figure of pushkin the russian shakespeare as a recurring example as his work influenced every russian writer who came after him whether poets or novelists it will look at such questions as why russian writers are venerated how they've been interpreted inside russia and beyond and the influences of such things as the folk tale tradition orthodox religion and the west about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this book aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

this innovative and lively book is quite unlike any other introduction to postcolonialism robert young examines the political social and cultural after effects of decolonization by presenting situations experiences and testimony rather than going through the theory at an abstract level he situates the debate in a wide cultural context discussing its importance as an historical condition with examples such as the status of aboriginal people of those dispossessed from their land algerian raï music postcolonial feminism and global social and ecological movements above all young argues postcolonialism offers a political philosophy of activism that contests the current situation of global inequality and so in a new way continues the anti colonial struggles of the past about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this stimulating very short introduction to music invites us to really think about music and the values and qualities we ascribe to it the world teems with

different kinds of music traditional folk classical jazz rock pop and each type of music tends to come with its own way of thinking drawing on a wealth of accessible examples ranging from beethoven to chinese zither music nicholas cook attempts to provide a framework for thinking about all music by examining the personal social and cultural values that music embodies the book reveals the shortcomings of traditional conceptions of music and sketches a more inclusive approach emphasizing the role of performers and listeners about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

was love invented by european poets in the middle ages or is it part of human nature will winning the lottery really make you happy is it possible to build robots that have feelings in this very sort introduction dylan evans explores these and many other intriguing questions in this guide to the latest thinking about the emotions drawing on a wide range of scientific research from anthropology and psychology to neuroscience and artificial intelligence evans takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the human heart discussing the evolution of emotions and their biological basis the science of happiness and the role that emotions play in memory and decision making greeted by critics as a pop science classic when it was first published in 2001 the book has now been thoroughly revised and updated to incorporate new developments in our understanding of emotions including new sections addressing the neural basis of empathy and the emotional impact of films about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this very short introduction explores the concept of measurement its mathematical underpinnings and its wide range of application from the sciences and social sciences to economics and commerce

in this lively very short introduction tim bayne looks at the nature of thought exploring questions such as what are thoughts and how is thought realized in the brain he draws on research in philosophy psychology neuroscience and anthropology to look at what we know and don t know about the capacity for thought

what is literary theory is there a relationship between literature and culture in fact what is literature and does it matter these are some of questions addressed by jonathan culler in this very short introduction to literary theory often a controversial subject said to have transformed the study of culture and society in the past two decades literary theory is accused of undermining respect for tradition and truth and encouraging suspicion about the political and psychological implications of cultural projects rather than admiration for great literature here jonathan culler explains theory not by describing warring schools but by sketching key moves theory has encouraged and speaking directly about the implications of theory for thinking about literature human identity and the power

of language in this new edition culler takes a look at new material including the death of theory the links between the theory of narrative and cognitive science trauma theory ecocriticism and includes a new chapter on ethics and aesthetics this lucid introduction is useful for anyone who has wondered what all the fuss is about or who wants to think about literature today about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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