

Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture: From Socrates to South Park, Hume to House

From Wiley-Blackwell



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What can *South Park* tell us about Socrates and the nature of evil? How does *The Office* help us to understand Sartre and existentialist ethics? Can *Battlestar Galactica* shed light on the existence of God?

- *Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture* uses popular culture to illustrate important philosophical concepts and the work of the major philosophers
- With examples from film, television, and music including *South Park*, *The Matrix*, *X-Men*, *Batman*, *Harry Potter*, *Metallica* and *Lost*, even the most abstract and complex philosophical ideas become easier to grasp
- Features key essays from across the Blackwell *Philosophy and Pop Culture* series, as well as helpful editorial material and a glossary of philosophical terms
- From metaphysics to epistemology; from ethics to the meaning of life, this unique introduction makes philosophy as engaging as popular culture itself
- Supplementary website available with teaching guides, sample materials and links to further resources at www.pop-philosophy.org



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Editorial Review

Review

"This totally engaging book shows how philosophy helps you to live happily, reflect logically and act responsibly. It is an essential tool for contemporary students and teachers of philosophy. Enjoy!"

—David Carrier, Case Western Reserve University/Cleveland Institute of Art

From the Back Cover

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Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture uses popular culture to illustrate important philosophical concepts and the work of the major philosophers. With examples from film, television, and music including South Park, House, M.D., The Matrix, X-Men, Batman, Harry Potter, Metallica and Lost, even the most abstract and complex philosophical ideas become easier to grasp.

This unique textbook, featuring essays from the Blackwell *Philosophy and Pop Culture* series, is perfect for any introduction to philosophy course. From metaphysics to epistemology; from ethics to the meaning of life, *Introducing Philosophy through Pop Culture* makes philosophy as engaging as popular culture itself.

About the Author

William Irwin is professor of Philosophy and Director of the Honors Program at King's College in Pennsylvania. In addition to publishing in leading scholarly journals such as *Philosophy and Literature* and *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, Irwin originated the philosophy and popular culture genre of books with *Seinfeld and Philosophy* in 1999. Irwin has also co-edited *The Simpsons and Philosophy* and edited *The Matrix and Philosophy* and *Metallica and Philosophy*. He is currently the General Editor of the Blackwell *Philosophy and Pop Culture* series.

David Kyle Johnson is assistant professor of Philosophy at King's College in Pennsylvania. In addition to his scholarly work on philosophy of religion, Johnson has edited *Heroes and Philosophy* and is also a contributor to the Blackwell *Philosophy and Pop Culture* series, having written chapters on *South Park*, *Family Guy*, *The Office*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Batman*. Johnson hosts a podcast on Pop Culture and Philosophy at www.philosophyandpopculture.com.

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