

# Literary Theory A Very Short Introduction

History Design: A Very Short Introduction Information: A Very Short Introduction Knowledge Writing and Script Thinking and Reasoning Everything Happiness: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Comedy: A Very Short Introduction Music: A Very Short Introduction Nothing Thought: A Very Short Introduction Aristotle: A Very Short Introduction International Relations Algebra The Future Organizations Infinity The Scientific Revolution: A Very Short Introduction John H. Arnold John Heskett Luciano Floridi Jennifer Nagel Andrew Robinson Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Philip Ball Daniel M. Haybron Gary Thomas Matthew Bevis Nicholas Cook Frank Close Tim Bayne Jonathan Barnes Christian Reus-Smit Peter M. Higgins Jennifer M. Gidley Mary Jo Hatch Ian Stewart Lawrence Principe

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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 perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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

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

what is knowledge how does it differ from mere belief do you need to be able to justify a claim in order to count as knowing it how can we know that the outer world is real and not a dream questions like these are ancient ones and the branch of philosophy dedicated to answering them epistemology has been active for thousands of years in this thought provoking very short introduction

jennifer nagel considers these classic questions alongside new puzzles arising from recent discoveries about humanity language and the mind nagel explains the formation of major historical theories of knowledge and shows how contemporary philosophers have developed new ways of understanding knowledge using ideas from logic linguistics and psychology covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources nagel examines how progress has been made in understanding knowledge using everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates 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

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

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

in this very short introduction dan haybron considers the true nature of happiness by examining what it is assessing its subjective values its importance in our lives and how we can and should pursue it he considers the current thinking on happiness from psychology to philosophy

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

with a broad scope across the millennia from high literature to popular culture between page and stage and screen this very short introduction considers comedy not only as a literary genre but also as a broader impulse at work in many other historical and contemporary forms of satire parody and play

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

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the

vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology's most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin 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

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

in this book jonathan barnes examines aristotle's scientific researches his discoveries in logic and his metaphysical theories his work in psychology and in ethics and politics placing his teachings in their historical context

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

this very short introduction invites readers to revisit algebra and appreciate the elegance and power of equations and inequalities offering a clear explanation of algebra through theory and example higgins shows how equations lead to complex numbers matrices groups rings and fields

from the beginning of time humans have been driven by both a fear of the unknown and a curiosity to know we have always yearned to know what lies ahead whether threat or safety scarcity or abundance throughout human history our forebears tried to create certainty in the unknown by seeking to influence outcomes with sacrifices to gods preparing for the unexpected with advice from oracles and by reading the stars through astrology as scientific methods improve and computer technology develops we become ever more confident of our capacity to predict and quantify the future by accumulating and interpreting patterns from the past yet the truth is there is still no certainty to be had in this very short introduction jennifer gidley considers some of our most burning questions what is the future is the future a time yet to come or is it a utopian place does the future have a history is there only one future or are there many possible futures she asks if the future can ever be truly predicted or if we create our own futures both hoped for and feared by our thoughts feelings and actions and concludes by analysing how we can learn to study the future 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

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 many 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

infinity is an intriguing topic with connections to religion philosophy metaphysics logic and physics as well as mathematics its history goes back to ancient times with especially important contributions from euclid aristotle eudoxus and archimedes the infinitely large infinite is intimately related to the infinitely small infinitesimal cosmologists consider sweeping questions about whether space and time are infinite philosophers and mathematicians ranging from zeno to russell have posed numerous paradoxes about infinity and infinitesimals many vital areas of mathematics rest upon some version of infinity the most obvious and the first context in which major new techniques



depended on formulating infinite processes is calculus but there are many others for example fourier analysis and fractals in this very short introduction ian stewart discusses infinity in mathematics while also drawing in the various other aspects of infinity and explaining some of the major problems and insights arising from this concept he argues that working with infinity is not just an abstract intellectual exercise but that it is instead a concept with important practical everyday applications and considers how mathematicians use infinity and infinitesimals to answer questions or supply techniques that do not appear to involve the infinite 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

lawrence m principe takes a fresh approach to the story of the scientific revolution emphasising the historical context of the society and its world view at the time from astronomy to alchemy and medicine to geology he tells this fascinating story from the perspective of the historical characters involved

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