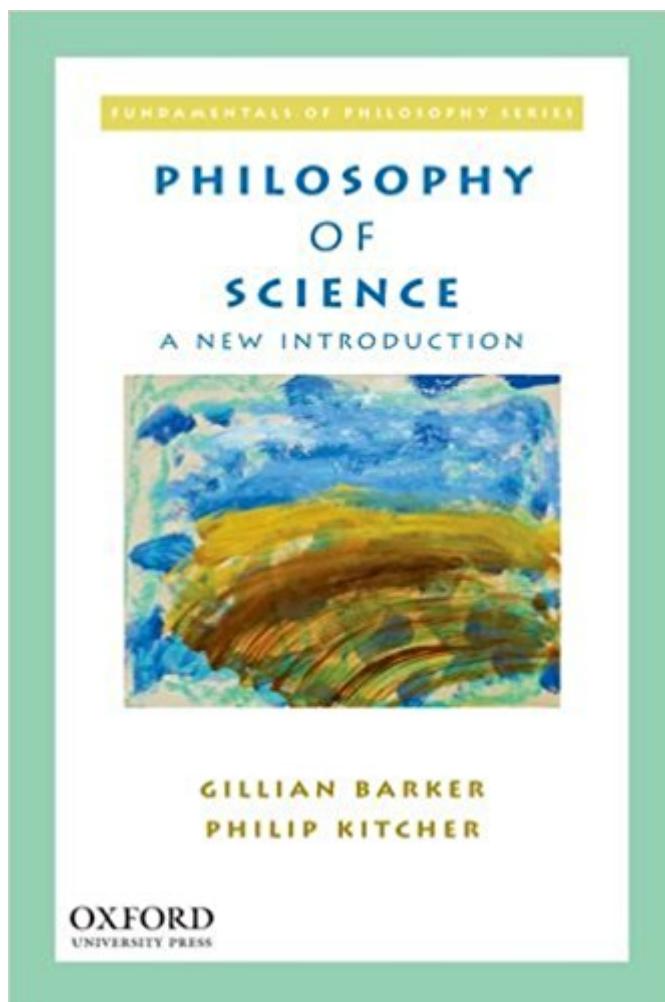


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Philosophy Of Science: A New Introduction (Fundamentals Of Philosophy Series)



Synopsis

Offering an engaging and accessible portrait of the current state of the field, *Philosophy of Science: A New Introduction* shows students how to think philosophically about science and why it is both essential and fascinating to do so. Gillian Barker and Philip Kitcher reconsider the core questions in philosophy of science in light of the multitude of changes that have taken place in the decades since the publication of C.G. Hempel's classic work, *Philosophy of Natural Science* (1966)--both in the field and also in history and sociology of science and the sciences themselves. They explore how philosophical questions are connected to vigorous current debates--including climate change, science and religion, race, intellectual property rights, and medical research priorities--showing how these questions, and philosophers' attempts to answer them, matter in the real world. Featuring numerous illustrative examples and extensive further reading lists, *Philosophy of Science: A New Introduction* is ideal for courses in philosophy of science, history and philosophy of science, and epistemology/theory of knowledge. It is also compelling and illuminating reading for scientists, science students, and anyone interested in the natural sciences and in their place in global society today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This new textbook from Barker and Kitcher is a wonderful attempt to create a new thoroughly more modern kind of general philosophy of science course that embraces the true expansiveness of the field and the modern concern of philosophers to move beyond traditional epistemological and

metaphysical debates... In a very short space of text, this book makes a highly accessible case for an open and inclusive philosophy of science." --Metascience "Gillian Barker and Philip Kitcher offer an elegant integration of ideas from the history, sociology, and philosophy of science. The discussion is philosophically rich and conceptually deep, but remains accessible throughout. Their treatment is a useful guide for anyone interested in understanding both the success of scientific methods and the limits, epistemic and moral, of scientific authority."--Bruce Glymour, Kansas State University"Philosophy of Science: A New Introduction is an excellent work that should become a standard text in introduction to philosophy of science courses for many years to come. Its best quality is the way in which it reorients the field of philosophy of science to questions of social and political relevance."--Justin B. Biddle, Georgia Institute of Technology"This is an excellent book written by two excellent scholars. I think that it is the first attempt to recast the format of classical philosophy of science textbooks to take into account how the field has changed since the mid-20th century. I suspect that it will quickly become the standard textbook, and also a stimulating introduction for lay readers and scientists."--Michael Weisberg, University of Pennsylvania

Gillian Barker is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Western University and a founding member of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, an interdisciplinary research center fostering academic inquiry and public discussion concerning issues at the intersection between philosophy and the sciences. Philip Kitcher is John Dewey Professor of Philosophy at Columbia. He is the author of books and articles on issues in the philosophy of science. He has been President of the American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division) and Editor-in-Chief of *Philosophy of Science*. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he also received the Prometheus Prize, awarded by the American Philosophical Association for work in expanding the frontiers of science and philosophy.

This was the textbook for my first-ever philosophy class. I wasn't quite sure what to expect from a philosophy book, but it wasn't this, not after all the horror stories I'd heard about Kant and Heidegger. The book is exceptionally clear, with an interesting prose style that doesn't distract, but is never boring. The authors clearly get science and the scientific viewpoint, while also being sensitive to extrascientific issues. Some of the topics, especially early in the book, are much clearer if you know a little about the foundations of math. If you've read Goedel, Escher, Bach or studied formal logic at all, that's probably enough. One of the coauthors, Philip Kitcher, has also written a great response to what he calls "Darwinian atheists", the Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens

crowd, that helps illuminate the assumptions about religious belief in Chapters 3, 4, and 5. Overall, an excellent text. Be glad if this is the assigned text for your class. Given its short length and clear style, it's definitely also useful if you just want to read up on your own.

Barker and Kitcher have written an outstanding introduction to the field of philosophy of science, unburdened by the baggage of the past 25 years of controversies, yet informed by them. No one need fear using this book as the text for an introductory course.

Good

Exactly as described.

This was in perfect condition, needed it for class. Thank you!

Book arrived in clean, new condition with no issues. The text itself is condensed but not too heavy of a material to bore.

Cannily written, accessible introduction to issues in general philosophy of science. The book covers common material in typical philosophy of science classrooms clearly and unpretentiously, and it uses a variety of case studies from across the sciences to prime students' critical reflection. The emphasis on science and values paves the way for contemporary approaches to philosophy of science without short-shrifting topics of interest from 20th-century philosophy of science and before. And the price point is excellent for students!

I honestly hated the majority of this book. Admittedly I would have put it down after the 3rd chapter but this text was a requirement for a class I took for college. I thoroughly enjoyed the class along with the other 2 assigned readings (To Explain the World - Steven Weinberg and Just a Theory - Moti Ben-Ari) but hated this book all the way through... except 1 chapter. The entirety of Chapter 5 is worth the read. Really liked that one to the point I read 3 times to ensure I got the most out of it but that's it. I wouldn't recommend the rest of the book as I rolled my eyes so much it gave me a headache. I only recommend chapter 5 so if you can just buy that for 1/6 the price then you should jump on it.

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