

# PHILOSOPHY

## THE POWER OF IDEAS

SIXTH EDITION

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BROOKE NOEL MOORE

KENNETH BRUDER

# Philosophy

## The Power of Ideas

SIXTH EDITION

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### PHILOSOPHY: THE POWER OF IDEAS, SIXTH EDITION

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4 5 6 7 8 9 0 DOC/DOC 0 9 8 7 6

ISBN-13: 978-0-07-287603-1

ISBN-10: 0-07-287603-4

Editor-in-chief: *Emily Barrosse*

Publisher: *Lyn Uhl*

Sponsoring editor: *Jon-David Hague*

Marketing manager: *Zina Craft*

Production services manager: *Jennifer Mills*

Production service: *Matrix Productions, Inc.*

Manuscript editor: *Vicki Nelson*

Art director: *Jeanne M. Schreiber*

Design manager and cover designer: *Preston Thomas*

Interior designer: *Claire Seng-Niemoeller*

Art manager: *Robin Mouat*

Photo researcher: *Connie Gardner*

Illustrator: *Robin Mouat, Larry Daste/Evelyn Johnson Associates*

Production supervisor: *Randy Hurst*

The text was set in 10/12 Plantin Light by G&S Typesetters, Inc., and printed on acid-free, 45# New Era Matte by RR Donnelley, Crawfordsville.

Cover image: © Christian Michaels/Taxi/Getty Images

The credits for this book begin on page C-1, a continuation of the copyright page.

### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Moore, Brooke Noel.

Philosophy : the power of ideas / Brooke Noel Moore, Kenneth Bruder.—6th ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-07-287603-4

1. Philosophy—Introductions. 2. Philosophy—History. I. Bruder, Kenneth. II. Title.

BD21.M66 2004

100—dc22

2004040302

# Preface

What do you do with a philosophy degree? Well, of the twenty undergraduates selected to be on the *USA TODAY* 2004 All-USA College Academic First Team, four are philosophy majors. You could ask them.

Jon Novotny, from the University of Tulsa, credits philosophy with helping him see the bigger picture. Sara Shoener, of the University of Scranton, says majoring in philosophy “is the most practical thing I’ve ever done.” Ryan Keller, of Brigham Young University, finds that philosophy opened his mind to different perspectives. And Cristina Bejan, of Northwestern University, used philosophy in writing two plays that were performed at Oxford’s Burton Taylor Theatre during her junior year abroad. All four, in short, credit philosophy with broadening their horizons.<sup>1</sup>

We hope the changes in this edition will help broaden the horizons of anyone who reads the book. Here’s what we’ve done:

Most important, we’ve added an appendix on aesthetics, written by Dominic McIver Lopes, of the University of British Columbia. We didn’t write it, so we don’t mind saying that this is one of the best short introductions to aesthetics you could hope to find.

We’ve also expanded our coverage by including new elements. The new materials added and subjects covered include:

- French feminism and psychoanalysis
- Hegel on the master-slave relationship
- Emmanuel Levinas
- Gilles Deleuze
- Alain Badiou
- Ayn Rand
- New reading excerpts from Plato’s *Apology*, Plato’s *Crito*, and Spinoza’s *Ethics*
- New photographs
- Numerous new print and online references
- New profile and feature boxes

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<sup>1</sup> *USA TODAY*, Feb. 12, 2004.

We have also done a bit of rearranging, consolidating the chapter titled “An Era of Suspicion” with the chapter “The Continental Tradition.”

This book remains, however, the same straightforward, ungimmicky historical introduction to philosophy it has always been, one that contains separate treatments of the major branches of philosophy. Our presentation — a middle road between the historical approach and the “problems” approach — helps readers keep similar concepts together and helps instructors avoid leaving an impression that philosophy is a parade of unconnected speculations.

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## Philosophy — Powerful Ideas

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We concluded years ago that most people like philosophy if they understand it and that most understand it if it isn’t presented to them in exhausting prose. In this text we strive above all else to make philosophy understandable while not oversimplifying.

We also concluded years ago that some people just aren’t moved by the subject. Worse, we learned that among those who aren’t are a few who are sane, intelligent, well informed, and reasonable and who generally have sound ideas about the world, vote for the right people, and are even worth having as friends. Philosophy is just not for everyone, and no text and no instructor can make it so.

So we do not expect that every student, or even every bright student, who comes in contact with philosophy will love the field. But we do hope every student who has had an introductory course in philosophy will learn that philosophy is more than inconsequential mental flexing. Philosophy contains powerful ideas, and it affects the lives of real people. Consequently, it must be handled with due care. The text makes this point clear.

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## Philosophy: A Worldwide Search for Wisdom and Understanding

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Until the middle of the twentieth century, most philosophers and historians of ideas in American and European universities thought philosophical reflection occurred only within the tradition of disciplined discourse that began with the ancient Greeks and has continued into the present. This conception of philosophy has been changing, however, first through the interest in Eastern thought, especially Zen Buddhism, in the fifties, then through the increasingly widespread publication of high-quality translations and commentaries of texts from outside the Western tradition in the following decades. Of course, the availability of such texts does not mean that unfamiliar ideas will receive a careful hearing or even that they will receive any hearing at all.

Among the most challenging threads of the worldwide philosophical conversation is what has come to be known in recent years as postcolonial thought. The lines defining this way of thinking are not always easy to draw — but the same could be said for existentialism, phenomenology, and a number of other schools of thought in philosophy. In any event, in many cultures and subcultures around the world, thinkers are asking searching questions about methodology and fundamental beliefs

that are intended to have practical, political consequences. Because these thinkers frequently intend their work to be revolutionary, their ideas run a higher-than-usual risk of being lost to philosophy's traditional venues. We include in this book a small sample from such writers.

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## Women in the History of Philosophy

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Histories of philosophy make scant mention of women philosophers prior to the latter half of the twentieth century. For a long time it was assumed that lack of mention was due to a deficit of influential women philosophers. Scholarship such as that by Mary Ellen Waithe (*A History of Women Philosophers*) suggests that women have been more important in the history of philosophy than is often assumed. To date we lack full-length translations and modern editions of the works of many women philosophers. Until this situation changes, Waithe argues, it is difficult to reconstruct the history of the discipline with accuracy.

This text acknowledges the contributions of at least some women to the history of philosophy. We include women philosophers throughout the text in their historical context, and we also offer a chapter on feminist philosophy.

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## Features

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Among what we think are the nicer attributes of this book are these:

- Separate histories of metaphysics and epistemology; the continental, pragmatic, and analytic traditions; moral and political philosophy; feminist philosophy; and the philosophy of religion
- Coverage of postmodernism and multiculturalism
- A section titled "Other Voices," which contains chapters on Eastern influences, feminist philosophy, and postcolonial thought
- Recognition of specific contributions of women to philosophy
- A generous supply of easy original readings that don't overwhelm beginning students
- Boxes highlighting important concepts, principles, and distinctions or containing interesting anecdotes or historical asides
- Biographical profiles of many of the great philosophers
- End-of-chapter checklists of key philosophers and concepts, with mini-summaries of the philosophers' leading ideas
- End-of-chapter questions for review and reflection and lists of additional sources
- A pronunciation guide to the names of philosophers
- A brief subsection on American Constitutional theory
- A glossary/index that defines important concepts on the spot

- Teachable four-part organization: (1) Metaphysics and Epistemology, (2) Moral and Political Philosophy, (3) Philosophy of Religion, and (4) Other Voices
- A section on arguments and fallacies

### The Teaching Package

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- An Online Learning Center available at [www.mhhe.com/moore6e](http://www.mhhe.com/moore6e) includes useful self-assessment quizzes to help students master chapter content. Students can also view and download a PDF file presenting detailed outlines of each chapter. A PowerPoint presentation, available for download by instructors, is designed as an in-class tool to help focus student attention and stimulate discussion using images of philosophers and creative graphics.
- *PowerWeb: Philosophy* is available through the Online Learning Center and contains more than 50 classical and contemporary readings from the most common topics taught in an introductory philosophy course. Students can log in using the access codes at the front of the *Philosophy* text.
- The Instructor's Resource CD-ROM by Dan Barnett, Butte College, contains point-by-point chapter summaries, lists of boxes, lists of reading selections (with brief descriptions of contents), titles of philosophers' main works, lecture ideas relating to questions asked at the ends of chapters, a complete bank of test questions available in Microsoft Word as well as a computerized test bank, and more than 90 PowerPoint slides that present the major topics and philosophers in the book.
- PageOut, [www.pageout.net](http://www.pageout.net), McGraw-Hill's own course management system, is free with adoption and allows instructors to create powerful online resources and assessments. PageOut is perfect not only for instructors teaching online courses but also for instructors that want to make materials available to their students through the Web.

### Acknowledgments

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For their help and support in various forms, we want to thank, first, friends and colleagues at California State University, Chico: Maryanne Bertram, Judy Collins-Hamer, Frank Ficarra, Jay Gallagher, Eric Gampel, Tony Graybosch, Ron Hirschbein, Tom Imhoff, Scott Mahood, Clifford Minor, Adrian Mirvish, Anne Morrissey, Jim Oates, Richard Parker, Michael Rich, Dennis Rothermel, Robert Stewart, Greg Tropea, and Alan Walworth.

Also, for their wise and helpful comments on the manuscript for earlier editions, we thank Ken King, previously Mayfield/McGraw-Hill; John Michael Atherton, Duquesne University; Stuart Barr, Pima Community College; Sherrill Begres, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Gloria del Vecchio, Bucks County Community College; Mark A. Ehman, Edison Community College; Thomas Es-

helman, East Stroudsburg University; Robert Ferrell, University of Texas at El Paso; James P. Finn, Jr., Westmoreland County Community College; Raul Garcia, Southwest Texas State University; Kenneth A. Long, Indiana University–Purdue University at Fort Wayne; Adrienne Lyles-Chockley, University of San Diego; Curtis H. Peters, Indiana University Southeast; Richard Rice, La Sierra University; Harry Settanni, Holy Family College; and William C. Sewell, Michigan Technological University.

For the sixth edition we are indebted to:

W. Mark Cobb, Pensacola Junior College  
 Ronald G. DesRosiers, Madonna College  
 Brenda S. Hines, Highland Community College  
 Chris Jackway, Kellogg Community College  
 Henry H. Liem, San José City College

And we wish to express our gratitude to the McGraw-Hill staff and freelancers—Jon-David Hague, Allison Rona, Jen Mills, Marty Granahan, Preston Thomas, Victoria Nelson, Connie Gardner, Diane Jones—as well as to Aaron Downey of Matrix Productions.

Special thanks are due to Anita Silvers for putting us in touch with Dominic McIver Lopes, to Ellen Fox for material on feminist philosophy, to Gregory Tropea for material on postcolonial thought, to Mary Ellen Waithe for explaining the thought of important women in the history of philosophy, to Emerine Glowienka for helping us with Aquinas' metaphysics, and to Dan Barnett for many things, including the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM, careful reading of the new manuscript, and contributing the discussion of creationism/evolutionism.



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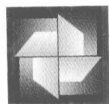
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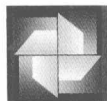
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