



The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy

Norman Melchert

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Now in its sixth edition, this historically organized introductory text treats philosophy as a dramatic and continuous story--a conversation about humankind's deepest and most persistent concerns. Tracing the exchange of ideas among history's key philosophers, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, Sixth Edition, demonstrates that while constructing an argument or making a claim, one philosopher almost always has others in mind. The book addresses the fundamental questions of human life: Who are we? What can we know? How should we live? and What sort of reality do we inhabit?

The sixth edition retains the distinctive feature of previous editions: author Norman Melchert provides a generous selection of excerpts from major philosophical works and makes them more easily understandable to students with his lucid and engaging explanations. Ranging from the Pre-Socratics to Derrida, Quine, and Dennett, the selections are organized historically and include four complete works: Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito*, and Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*. The author's commentary offers a rich intellectual and cultural context for the philosophical ideas conveyed in the excerpts. Extensive cross-referencing shows students how philosophers respond appreciatively or critically to the thoughts of other philosophers. The text is enhanced by two types of exercises--"Basic Questions" and "For Further Thought"--and fifty illustrations.

NEW TO THE SIXTH EDITION:

- * Coverage of Taoism, Iris Murdoch, and Zen
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- * Key terms, boldfaced throughout and listed at chapter ends
- * Brief and provocative quotations that stimulate thought and provoke questions
- * A new section on how to read philosophy
- * A new appendix: Writing a Philosophy Paper
- * A two-color format that enhances the text's visual appeal
- * A **Companion Website** at www.oup.com/us/melchert featuring resources for students including key points, flashcards, multiple-choice questions, and Internet resources
- * A **revised Instructor's Manual and Test Bank** (available on the companion website and on CD) containing key points, teaching suggestions, and multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay exam questions

The Great Conversation, Sixth Edition, is also available in two paperback volumes to suit your course needs. *Volume I: Pre-Socratics through Descartes* includes chapters 1-13 of the combined volume, while *Volume II: Descartes through Derrida and Quine* includes chapters 12-25.

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