

Sociolinguistics A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction Information: A Very Short Introduction History Foucault: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Emotion: A Very Short Introduction Nuclear Physics: A Very Short Introduction Theology: A Very Short Introduction Islamic Law: A Very Short Introduction Trigonometry: A Very Short Introduction Knowledge Music: A Very Short Introduction Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Thought: A Very Short Introduction Nothing Navigation Thinking and Reasoning Law Key Terms in Literary Theory John Heskett Luciano Floridi John H. Arnold Gary Gutting Timothy Gowers Dylan Evans Frank Close David Ford Mashood A. Baderin Glen Van Brummelen Jennifer Nagel Nicholas Cook David Cottington Gary Thomas Tim Bayne Frank Close Jim Bennett Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Raymond Wacks Mary Klages

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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

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

born in 1926 in france foucault is one of those rare philosophers who has become a cult figure over the course of his life he dabbled in drugs politics and the paris sm scene all whilst striving to understand the deep concepts of identity knowledge and power from aesthetics to the penal system from madness and civilisation to avant garde literature foucault was happy to reject old models of thinking and replace them with versions that are still widely debated today a major influence on queer theory and gender studies he was openly gay and died of an aids related illness in 1984 he also wrote on architecture history law medicine literature politics and of course philosophy in this very short introduction gary gutting presents a wide ranging but non systematic exploration of some highlights of foucault s life and thought beginning with a brief biography to set the social and political stage he then tackles foucault s thoughts on literature in particular the avant garde scene his philosophical and historical work his treatment of knowledge and power in modern society and his thoughts on sexuality this new edition includes feminist criticisms of foucault s apparently sexist treatment of the jouy case as well as a new chapter offering a unified overview of the collège de france lectures now a major focus of interest in foucault 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 aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

was love invented by european poets in the middle ages or is it part of human nature will winning the lottery really make you happy is it possible to build robots that have feelings in this very sort introduction dylan evans explores these and many other intriguing questions in this guide to the latest thinking about the emotions drawing on a wide range of scientific research from anthropology and psychology to neuroscience and artificial intelligence evans takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the human heart discussing the evolution of emotions and their biological basis the science of happiness and the role that emotions play in memory and decision making greeted by critics as a pop science classic when it was first published in 2001 the book has now been thoroughly revised and updated to incorporate new developments in our understanding of emotions including new sections addressing the neural basis of empathy and the emotional impact of films about the series the very short

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nuclear physics began long before the identification of fundamental particles with j j thomson s discovery of the electron at the end of the 19th century which implied the existence of a positive charge in the atom to make it neutral in this very short introduction frank close gives an account of how this area of physics has progressed including the recognition of how heavy nuclei are built up in the cores of stars and in supernovae the identification of quarks and gluons and the development of quantum chromodynamics qcd exploring key concepts such as the stability of different configurations of protons and neutrons in nuclei frank close shows how nuclear physics brings the physics of the stars to earth and provides us with important applications particularly in medicine 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 is an introduction to the subject of academic theology its basic approach is interrogative raising key questions so as to lead into a range of selected topics such as knowledge community salvation god prayer and evil

very short introductions brilliant sharp inspiring islamic law is one of the major legal systems in the world today yet it is often misunderstood particularly in the west it is applicable in different forms as part of state law in countries across the middle east asia and africa and also has a strong influence on muslim communities throughout the western world this very short introduction provides an authoritative perspective on the evolution and nature of islamic law mashood a baderin considers its theory covering the history and nature of islamic jurisprudence its scope covering family law inheritance law financial law penal law and international law and finally its practice he takes into account both classical and modern scholarly perspectives in examining the various facets of islamic law to provide an overview of this key legal system 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

born of the desire to understand the workings of motions of the heavenly bodies trigonometry gave the ancient greeks the ability to predict their futures most of what we see of the subject in school comes from these heavenly origins 15th century astronomer regiomontanus called it the foot of the ladder to the stars in this very short introduction glen van brummelen shows how trigonometry connects mathematics to science and has today

become an indispensable tool in predicting cyclic patterns like animal populations and ocean tides its historical journey through major cultures such as medieval india and the islamic world has taken it through disciplines such as geography and even religious practice trigonometry has also been a major player in the most startling mathematical developments of the modern world its interactions with the concept of infinity led to taylor and fourier series some of the most practical tools of modern science the birth of complex numbers led to a shocking union of exponential and trigonometric functions creating the most beautiful formulas and powerful modelling tools in science finally as van brummelen shows trigonometry allows us to explore the strange new worlds of non euclidean geometries opening up bizarre possibilities for the shape of space itself and indeed one of those new geometries spherical takes us full circle back to ancient greek astronomers and european navigators who first used it to chart their ways across the heavens and the earth 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

human beings naturally desire knowledge but what is knowledge is it the same as having an opinion highlighting the major developments in the theory of knowledge from ancient greece to the present day jennifer nagel uses a number of simple everyday examples to explore the key themes and current debates of epistemology

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

as public interest in modern art continues to grow there is a real need for a book that will engage general readers offering them not only information and ideas about modern art but also explaining its contemporary relevance and its history this book does just that

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

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

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

from the bronze age mariners of the mediterranean to contemporary sailors using satellite based technologies the history of navigation at sea the art of finding a position and setting a course is fascinating the scientific and technological developments that have enabled accurate measurements of position were central to exploration trade and the opening up of new continents and the resulting journeys taken under their influence have had a profound influence on world history in this very short introduction jim bennett looks at the history of navigation starting with the distinctive cultures of navigation that are defined geographically

the mediterranean sea and the pacific indian and atlantic oceans he shows how the adoption of mathematical methods the use of instruments the writing of textbooks and the publication of charts all combined to create a more standardised practice methods such as longitude finding by chronometer and lunar distance were complemented by the routine business of recording courses and reckoning position by account bennett also introduces the incredible array of instruments relied on by sailors from astrolabes sextants and chronometers to our more modern radio receivers electronic equipment and charts and highlights the crucial role played by the individual qualities of endeavour and resourcefulness from mathematicians scientists and seamen in finding their way at sea the story of navigation combines the societal the technical and the human and it was vital for shaping the modern world 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

law touches every aspect of our daily lives and yet the main concepts terms and processes of the legal system remain obscure to many this very short introduction in its third edition provides a lucid accessible guide to modern legal systems considering a number of social and political events that have had an impact on the law

students of literature film and cultural studies need to understand key theoretical terms and concepts but often find it hard to get to grips with exactly what they mean this book provides precise definitions of terms and concepts in literary theory along with explanations of the major movements and figures in literary and cultural theory and an extensive bibliography it is designed for the student who needs to know what a particular term means how it is used and where it comes from and enables them to apply the terms and concepts to their own investigations the three part structure provides clear definitions of key terms and ideas introductions to major figures including biographical and historical overviews and an annotated guide to important works this invaluable resource provides readers with an easily accessible and comprehensive reference guide to literary and cultural theory

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