

World Music A Very Short Introduction Very Short I

Design: A Very Short Introduction History Information: A Very Short Introduction Organizations Education: A Very Short Introduction Knowledge Thinking and Reasoning Literary Theory Law Science Fiction International Relations Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Hegel Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction The Habsburg Empire: A Very Short Introduction Theology: A Very Short Introduction Bestsellers Writing and Script Psychiatry: A Very Short Introduction John Heskett John H. Arnold Luciano Floridi Mary Jo Hatch Gary Thomas Jennifer Nagel Jonathan St B. T. Evans Jonathan Culler Raymond Wacks David Seed Christian Reus-Smit Timothy Gowers Peter Singer Edward Craig Linda Greenhouse Martyn Rady David Ford John Sutherland Andrew Robinson Tom Burns

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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

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

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information 4 semantic information 5 physical information 6 biological information 7 economic information 8 the ethics of information conclusion references

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 mary 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

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

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

our extraordinary capacity to reason and solve problems sets us aside from other animals but our evolved thinking processes also leave us susceptible to bias and error the study of thinking and reasoning goes back to aristotle and was one of the first topics to be studied when psychology separated from philosophy in this very short introduction jonathan evans explores cognitive psychological approaches to understanding the nature of thinking and reasoning problem solving and decision making he shows how our problem solving capabilities are hugely dependent on

also having the imagination to ask the right questions and the ability to see things from a completely new perspective beginning by considering the approaches of the behaviourists and the gestalt psychologists he moves on to modern explorations of thinking including hypothetical thinking conditionals deduction rationality and intuition covering the role of past learning iq and cognitive biases evans also discusses the idea that there may be two different ways of thinking arising from our evolutionary history 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 literary theory is there a relationship between literature and culture in fact what is literature and does it matter these are some of questions addressed by jonathan culler in this very short introduction to literary theory often a controversial subject said to have transformed the study of culture and society in the past two decades literary theory is accused of undermining respect for tradition and truth and encouraging suspicion about the political and psychological implications of cultural projects rather than admiration for great literature here jonathan culler explains theory not by describing warring schools but by sketching key moves theory has encouraged and speaking directly about the implications of theory for thinking about literature human identity and the power of language in this new edition culler takes a look at new material including the death of theory the links between the theory of narrative and cognitive science trauma theory ecocriticism and includes a new chapter on ethics and aesthetics this lucid introduction is useful for anyone who has wondered what all the fuss is about or who wants to think about literature today 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

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

science fiction has proved notoriously difficult to define it has been explained as a combination of romance science and prophecy as a genre based on an imagined alternative to the reader s environment and as a form of fantastic fiction and historical literature it has also been argued that science fiction narratives are the most engaged socially relevant and responsive to the modern technological environment this very short introduction doesn t offer a history of science fiction but instead ties examples of science fiction to different historical moments in order to demonstrate how science fiction has evolved over time david seed looks not only at literature but also at drama and poetry as well as film examining recurrent themes in science fiction he looks at voyages into space the concept of the alien and alternative social identities the role of technology in science fiction and its relation to time in the past present and 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

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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 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

many people regard hegel s work as obscure and extremely difficult yet his importance and influence are universally acknowledged professor singer eliminates any excuse for remaining ignorant of the outlines of hegel s philosophy by providing a broad discussion of his ideas and an account of his major works 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

philosophy introduces important themes in ethics knowledge and the self via readings from plato aristotle darwin and buddhist writers it explains how areas of philosophy relate and explores the contexts in which philosophy was and is done

for 30 years pulitzer prize winning journalist linda greenhouse chronicled the activities of the u s supreme court and its justices as a correspondent for the new york times in this very short introduction she draws on her deep knowledge of the court s history and of its written and unwritten rules to show readers how the supreme court really works greenhouse offers a fascinating institutional biography of a place and its people men and women who exercise great power but whose names and faces are unrecognized by many americans and whose work often appears cloaked in mystery how do cases get to the supreme court how do the justices go about deciding them what special role does the chief justice play what do the law clerks do how does the court relate to the other branches of government greenhouse answers these questions by depicting the justices as they confront deep constitutional issues or wrestle with the meaning of confusing federal statutes throughout the author examines many individual supreme court cases to illustrate points under discussion ranging from marbury v madison the seminal case which established judicial review to the recent district of columbia v heller 2008 which struck down the district of columbia s gun control statute and which was surprisingly the first time in its history that the court issued an authoritative interpretation of the second amendment to add perspective greenhouse also compares the court to foreign courts revealing interesting differences for instance no other country in the world has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges the second edition of greenhouse s very short introduction tracks the changes in the court s makeup over the last eight years considers the landmark decisions of the obama and trump eras and reexamines the precarious fates of such precedents as roe v wade a superb overview packed with telling

details this volume offers a matchless introduction to one of the pillars of american government

the habsburgs are the most famous dynasty in continental europe from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries they ruled much of central europe and for two centuries were also rulers of spain through the spanish connection they acquired lands around the mediterranean and a chunk of the new world spreading eastwards to include the philippines reaching from south east asia to what is now ukraine the habsburg empire was truly global in this very short introduction martin rady looks at the history of the habsburgs from their tenth century origins in switzerland to the dissolution of the habsburg empire in 1918 he introduces the pantheon of habsburg rulers which included adventurers lunatics and at least one monarch who was so malformed that his true portrait could never be exhibited he also discusses the lands and kingdoms that made up the habsburg empire and the decisive moments that shaped their history dynasty europe global power and the idea of the multi national state all converge on the history of the habsburg empire 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

i rejoice said doctor johnson to concur with the common reader for the last century the tastes and preferences of the common reader have been reflected in the american and british bestseller lists and this very short introduction takes an engaging look through the lists to reveal what we have been reading and why john sutherland shows that bestseller lists monitor one of the strongest pulses in modern literature and are therefore worthy of serious study along the way he lifts the lid on the bestseller industry examines what makes a book into a bestseller and asks what separates bestsellers from canonical fiction exploring the relationship between bestsellers and the fashions ideologies and cultural concerns of the day the book includes short case studies and lively summaries of bestsellers through the years from in his steps now almost totally forgotten but the biggest all time bestseller between 1895 and 1945 to gone with the wind and the andromeda strain and the da vinci code 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

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psychiatry is now a highly visible activity care in the community compulsion suicide drug and alcohol abuse mean that few people are not touched by it indeed one in four of us will consult a psychiatrist in our life time this book explains what psychiatry is and what it is not it starts with the identification of the major mental illnesses and why they are no longer considered just variations of normality it charts the rise of the asylum and its demise with the developments of care in the community and the flourishing of psychoanalysis and its later transformation into more accessible psychotherapies more than any other branch of medicine psychiatry has been attacked and criticised there is a long catalogue of abuses from mundane neglect and bizarre treatments through to political abuse by totalitarian regimes modern psychiatry too brings with it new controversies such as the medicalization of normal life the power of the drug companies and the use of psychiatry as an agent of social control the book does not shy away from outlining these issues but provides the reader with a clear understanding of what psychiatry is capable of and what it is not capable of so that they can draw their own conclusions 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

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