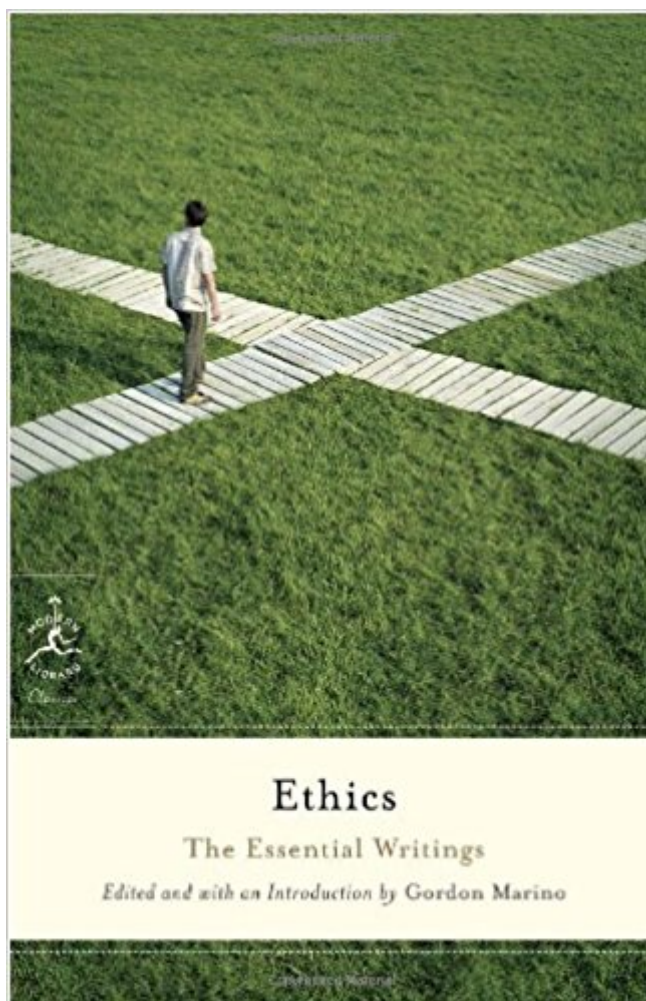


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Ethics: The Essential Writings (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

In *Ethics: The Essential Writings*, philosopher Gordon Marino skillfully presents an accessible, provocative anthology of both ancient and modern classics on matters moral. The philosophers represent 2,500 years of thought—from Plato, Kant, and Nietzsche to Alasdair MacIntyre, Susan Wolf, and Peter Singer—and cover a broad range of topics, from the timeless questions of justice, morality, and faith to the hot-button concerns of today, such as animal rights, our duties to the environment, and gender issues. Featuring an illuminating preamble, concise introductory essays on the giants of ethical theory, and incisive chapter headnotes to the modern offerings, this Modern Library edition is a perfect single-volume reference for students, teachers, and anyone eager to engage in reflection on ethical questions, including “What is the basis for our ethical views and judgments?”

• Gordon Marino is professor of philosophy and director of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. A recipient of the Richard J. Davis Ethics Award for excellence in writing on ethics and the law, he is the author of *Kierkegaard in the Present Age*, co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard*, and editor of the Modern Library’s *Basic Writings of Existentialism*. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times*.

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Customer Reviews

This primer on moral philosophy, compiled by philosophy professor (and former competitive boxer) Marino, is both an introduction to the science of oughts and a demonstration of the subject’s

breadth. The first half collects excerpts from the canonical ethics texts of Western philosophy, including classics by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Kant, and Mill, as well as a few wild cards (like Schopenhauer and Kierkegaard), which, though no less relevant, tend to appear less frequently in collections of this sort. The second half, more contemporary and somewhat more applied in its focus, includes such well-known works as Rawls's Theory of Justice and Walzer's discussion of dirty hands but also presents pieces that confront such specific ethical quandaries as animal rights, abortion, and treatment of the environment. Existentialism, Marino's specialty, is represented with an excerpt from Sartre and a prefatory reminder that life is about making choices. Capably pulled together by Marino's brief and pithy introductions of each excerpt, this selection will be of primary interest to students of philosophical ethics (as well as teachers looking for a textbook on the topic). --Brendan Driscoll

Gordon Marino is a professor of philosophy and director of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. A recipient of the Richard J. Davis Ethics Awards for excellence in writing on ethics and the law, Marino is the author of *Kierkegaard in the Present Age*, coeditor of *The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard*, editor of *Modern Library's Basic Writings of Existentialism and Ethics: The Essential Writings*, and editor of *The Quotable Kierkegaard*. His articles have been published widely, including in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *American Poetry Review*.

I use this book in my ethics classes but limit the number of readings because students often say it is too difficult. The readings which cover both theory and practice are well chosen, but I wish the author had given a little more introduction to each section; It is a good introductory book provided you are in an ethics class where you can discuss the schools and writers. Not easy on your own.

This book is exactly what it says it includes, the basic (and essential) writings of moral philosophy. It offers the most central and important articles/books/arguments for ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Deontological Ethics, Cultural Relativism, etc. It ranges from Plato to Peter Singer and beyond. Normally, you'd have to buy numerous books to get all this philosophy, but it's all compiled together for a very low price. This book could easily be used for an introductory ethics class since it offers so much, and even more advance classes since many works can be exhaustively studied in their own courses. Once I saw this in my campus bookstore I knew I had to purchase it.

It is, I think, worth noting the irony that textbooks for ethics classes are a scam. This is by far the most useful and best priced primary text reader I've used. What possible reason could there be to format philosophy textbooks (accepting perhaps history of, or logic) into the multi-year, visual-driven format of a large and insanely expensive science text book? Profit and hubris can be the only explanation. I'd note that these selections are of limited usefulness without some source of further explanation. But this is of course the point. Its obvious limitations are similar to those had by a somewhat arbitrary or themeless smattering of the published articles of some of the greatest physical scientists. It can, and should, replace most introductory ethics texts, and would be super useful to anyone interested in a cheap source of compelling and world-historic essays on the question of how to live.

I purchased this book for my Philosophical Ethics course. Great book, each and every person is bound to find something they like in here especially since it's many different authors and offers completely contrasting viewpoints for each topic. Use this book to open your mind, change your mind, strengthen your beliefs, or all three!

I need an audio book for this one!!!

This was a great purchase for my ethics class. Not only does it contain some of the great discourses important for a central understanding of Western Classical thought, but it leads right into typical conundrums often debated in civilization today.

Use this book in one of my classes. Very helpful :)

Cool

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