



Thinking Things Through: An Introduction to Philosophical Issues and Achievements (MIT Press)

By Clark Glymour



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Thinking Things Through offers a broad, historical, and rigorous introduction to the logical tradition in philosophy and its contemporary significance. It is unique among introductory philosophy texts in that it considers both the historical development and modern fruition of a few central questions. It traces the influence of philosophical ideas and arguments on modern logic, statistics, decision theory, computer science, cognitive science, and public policy. The text offers an account of the history of speculation and argument, and the development of theories of deductive and probabilistic reasoning. It considers whether and how new knowledge of the world is possible at all, investigates rational decision making and causality, explores the nature of mind, and considers ethical theories. Suggestions for reading, both historical and contemporary, accompany most chapters.

This second edition includes four new chapters, on decision theory and causal relations, moral and political theories, "moral tools" such as game theory and voting theory, and ethical theories and their relation to real-world issues. Examples have been updated throughout, and some new material has been added. It is suitable for use in advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate classes in philosophy, and as an ancillary text for students in computer science and the natural sciences.



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Thinking Things Through: An Introduction to Philosophical Issues and Achievements (MIT Press) By Clark Glymour Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1620337 in Books
- Published on: 2015-04-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .75" w x 7.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 472 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

The second edition of *Thinking Things Through* presents a compelling vision of philosophy as foundational to the scientific enterprise. Glymour animates, and contributes to, the grand tradition of philosophical engagement with the sciences embodied, for example, in the work of Descartes, Leibniz, Bayes, Boole, Gödel, and Turing, by elucidating fundamental logical, statistical, computational, and decision-theoretic notions that are crucial to understanding virtually every aspect of contemporary life. There is no finer introduction to philosophy than this masterfully crafted celebration of its stunning achievements.

(Scott Weinstein, Professor of Philosophy and of Computer and Information Science and Mathematics, University of Pennsylvania)

About the Author

Clark Glymour is Alumni University Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Carnegie Mellon University and Senior Research Scientist at Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. He is the author of *The Mind's Arrows: Bayes Nets and Graphical Causal Models in Psychology* (MIT Press), *Galileo in Pittsburgh*, and other books.

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