



## Does the Center Hold?: An Introduction to Western Philosophy

*Donald D. Palmer*

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Containing more than 500 illustrations, this topically-organized introductory text presents the ideas and issues typically covered in introductory courses. It aims to demonstrate that serious philosophical inquiry may be perplexing, but is ultimately enlightening and liberating.

### Does the Center Hold?: An Introduction to Western Philosophy Details

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## **From Reader Review Does the Center Hold?: An Introduction to Western Philosophy for online ebook**

### **Sara says**

Very good and easy to read. There where a few places where I felt some "theories" where overly simplified or summerized in a way that made me not understand them, but introductory books tend to have that sometimes, only so much you can squeeze in for beginners.

I would recommend this for someone with no background whatsoever on western philosophy.

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### **Ultimotomasino says**

I really need to buy my own copy of this book because Palmer is a brilliant writer and teacher. The complexity of Western philosophy is simplified and made interesting through the witty and dexterous storytelling Mr. Palmer presents us with. The concepts are also accompanied by satirical and often humorous drawings and sketches relevant to the subject matter that the reader would definitely enjoy.

Come take a crash course in Philosophy through this amazing piece of Philosophical material thanks to Mr. Donald!

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### **CR says**

I took PHIL 101 as a Sophomore at a crappy JuCo. The text used was nothing but excerpts of original text, WAY over my head.

At my 4-year U, this was the text used (a fact I knew because I worked in the Campus Bookstore). I LOVED flippin through it when I had the chance, but I never bothered to buy it.

There were funny pictures, too! Come ON, PHILOSOPHY is already a tough egg to crack - cartoons help.

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### **Leslie says**

My mantra: "Philosophy is a pissing match of old white men." That's what I got out of this textbook, which was awful and provided no clear understanding of what we were studying in an intro Philosophy class.

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### **Peter McQueeny says**

An excellent, fun introduction to Western philosophy. Makes things far easier to understand than most college professors do. And the illustrations are frequently hilarious.

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**Irene says**

I'd like a copy of this book again. Philosophy made very brief and easy to understand.

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**Jeff says**

This book is marvelous for beginners to the study of Western philosophers and theories....from Cartesian Dualism to Existentialism, the book is written (and illustrated! Don't miss these gems!) in such a way that it's easy to comprehend even the most labyrinthine arguments. Thanks Padre Mike!

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**Eric McGreevy says**

For years now, whenever I have needed a quick fix of philosophy I return to this book. Funny, well-written, and insightful it makes difficult philosophy accessible to everyone.

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**Roger Hao says**

Very basic introduction to the main branches of philosophy. Not enough details on many topics. Maybe if there wasn't so much space taken up by the cartoons, the author could include more material.

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**Peter Neiger says**

Good introduction into basic philosophy. It was a great way for me to be reminded of stuff that I went over years ago. I also found the list of Suggested Reading at the end of each chapter to be useful.

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**Sam Jones says**

I think this book explains the basics and history of philosophy fairly well, but I also feel I'm not retaining anything I read. Probably not a good choice to read straight through — needs some exercising so you actually remember what you learned

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**Wendy says**

This book is a great way to introduce philosophy to people who get bored easily. There are illustrations by the author that are quite humorous, and the references make up for what is lost in seriousness.

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### **Wouter says**

This is Donald's second book I've read on introductory philosophy and it's just as good as the first book. Some passages and images overlap (not only the subject but even the text itself) which might sound shocking to you but served as a refreshment to me because I'm not that familiar with the prominent characters in the philosophy world introduced here. I now have some basic knowledge on epistemology, ethics, ontology, logic and social philosophy. The word "some" should be emphasized here: it's a thick book but that's largely thanks to the (mostly not really) funny (but welcome) illustrations so don't expect it to go deep. It could also be used as a reference to look up keywords in its well-indexed appendix.

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### **Corbin says**

Palmer's book organizes philosophy into broad themes and presents a variety of figures, schools of thought, and issues related to these categories (epistemology, ontology, ethics, sociopolitical thought, art and aesthetics). The selection of thinkers and ideas is pretty diverse considering the traditional bias in Western philosophy, and Palmer does a pretty good job of giving thorough summaries in a short amount of space. Of course, as with any introductory book, controversial topics are glossed quickly and some interpretations may ruffle more knowledgeable readers, but it seems like Palmer tries to indicate where some of the debates might lie and where they are heading.

The supposed attraction of this book is Palmer's cartoons. He has strung images throughout the text that illustrate important, difficult, or unusual concepts, and he has attempted to be humorous. I think he is overconfident about his skills as a humorist, and the illustrations would be more helpful if he allowed some to be serious and some to be funny, rather than trying to make each of them a comic strip. Many of the jokes don't make sense to those new to the history of philosophy, and the level of corniness is very high.

I probably wouldn't use this book for an intro class; it can be challenging at times, and I really prefer using primary texts. Nonetheless, I would probably recommend this textbook for a new teacher who didn't have time to design their own reader or set of texts.

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### **Alex says**

A great intro to philosophy book and a great reference book. A fun easy read.

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