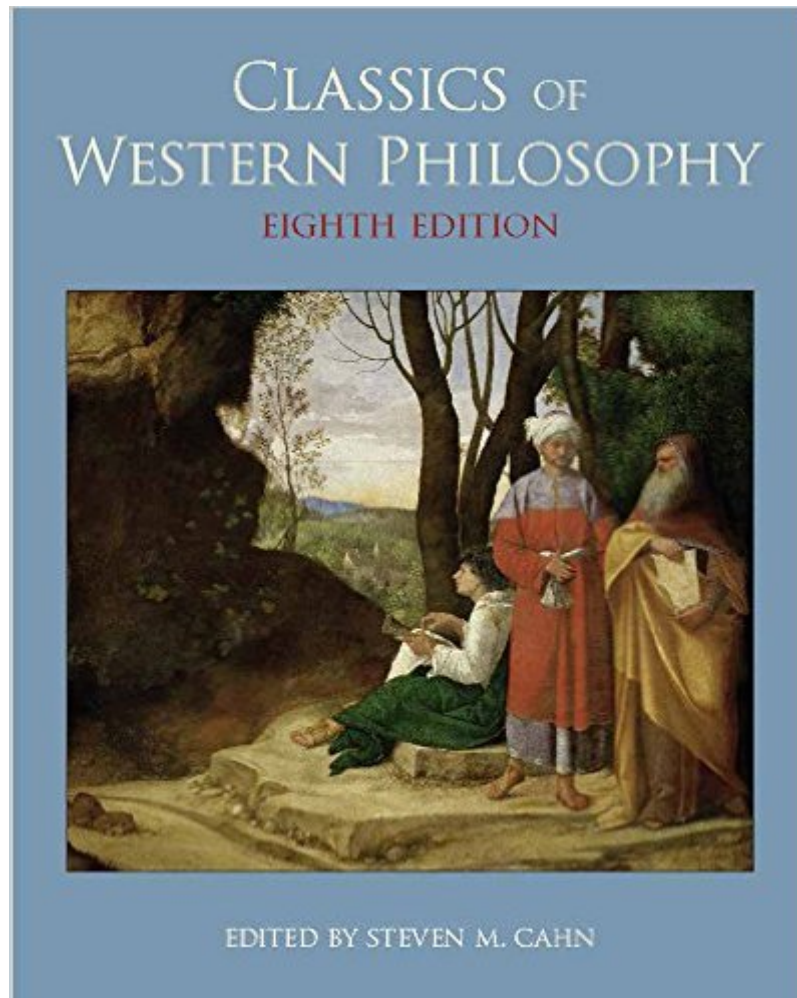


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Classics Of Western Philosophy



Synopsis

The Eighth Edition of Steven M. Cahn's *Classics of Western Philosophy* offers the same exacting standard of editing and translation that made earlier editions of this anthology the most highly valued and widely used volume of its kind. But the Eighth Edition offers exciting new content as well: Plato's *Laches* (complete), new selections from Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (on courage), Descartes' *Discourse on Method* (complete), all previously omitted sections of Berkeley's *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, Kant's *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (complete). These additions—•with no offsetting deletion of content of the Seventh Edition—•yield an anthology of unrivaled versatility, the only one to offer the complete texts of: both Descartes' *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations on First Philosophy*, both Berkeley's *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge* and *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, Kant's *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* and selections from the *Critique of Pure Reason*.

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Customer Reviews

I love how many different texts this covers. If you're a philosophy student then you'll be expected to read almost all of these throughout the course of your education so you might as well get it now. It is much much much cheaper than buying each of them individually and the translations can really aid in your understanding of each philosopher. Cahn is so good that even Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (which is notoriously dry and complex) isn't difficult to comprehend. I've noticed some complaints in the other reviews regarding whether or not this should be used as a primary text. I would, personally, say that this is the perfect material. Those who argue that there are no logical

connections between the texts must be out of their mind. The older philosophers presented at the beginning have provided a foundation that the later philosophers tinker with. For example, Aristotle's idea of the "Golden Mean" can later be connected to Hume, who even references the Peripatetics. Any good professor can find ways to bring a new philosopher back to an older one. A good professor will also be able to find where two philosophers may be talking about the same issue without it necessarily being apparent. Also, I find it ridiculous that one would feel the need for a narrative structure among all of these texts. When you read an anthology, do you expect all of the stories to be the same? You can always pick and choose the texts that you or your class will read from this text. There's never any need to read each and every one of them in sequence (unless you want to). This is simply the cheapest way to acquire a large number of some of the most valuable philosophical texts in history.

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