Reading, Writing, and Proving
A Closer Look at Mathematics

This book, which is based on Pólya's method of problem solving, aids students in their transition from calculus (or precalculus) to higher-level mathematics. The book begins by providing a great deal of guidance on how to approach definitions, examples, and theorems in mathematics and ends with suggested projects for independent study. Students will follow Pólya's four step approach: analyzing the problem, devising a plan to solve the problem, carrying out that plan, and then determining the implication of the result. In addition to the Pólya approach to proofs, this book places special emphasis on reading proofs carefully and writing them well. The authors have included a wide variety of problems, examples, and exercises, some with hints and solutions, designed specifically to improve the student’s ability to read and write proofs.

Features
- A useful appendix of formal definitions that can be used as a quick reference
- Second edition includes new exercises, problems, and student projects
- An electronic solutions manual for instructors and individual users

Fields of interest
Mathematical Logic and Foundations; Elementary Particles, Quantum Field Theory; Nanotechnology

Target groups
Lower undergraduate

Discount group
P

Reasoning about Preference Dynamics

Our preferences determine how we act and think, but exactly what the mechanics are and how they work is a central cause of concern in many disciplines. This book uses techniques from modern logics of information flow and action to develop a unified new theory of what preference is and how it changes. The theory emphasizes reasons for preference, as well as its entanglement with our beliefs. Moreover, the book provides dynamic logical systems which describe the explicit triggers driving preference change, including new information, suggestions, and commands. In sum, the book creates new bridges between many fields, from philosophy and computer science to economics, linguistics, and psychology. For the experienced scholar access to a large body of recent literature is provided and the novice gets a thorough introduction to the action and techniques of dynamic logic.

Features
- A logical investigation of the ubiquitous notion of preference, which brings together many areas: philosophy, computer science, game theory, legal reasoning, and social choice theory
- The first systematic treatment of preference change, and its relation to belief revision
- A richer model for preference structure which can advance current studies of agency
- An introduction to modern developments in dynamic logic

From the contents

Fields of interest
Logic; Game Theory/Mathematical Methods; Information Systems and Communication Service

Target groups
Research

Discount group
P

Due June 2011
2nd ed. 2011. XIV, 378 p. 56 illus. (Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics) Hardcover
➤ approx. $74.95

Due July 2011
➤ approx. $139.00
ISBN 978-94-007-1343-7

Due August 2011
2011. 500 p. (Law and Philosophy Library, Volume 94) Hardcover
➤ approx. $189.00
ISBN 978-94-007-1456-4
C. Mills, University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

Futures of Reproduction
Bioethics and Biopolitics

Issues in reproductive ethics, such as the capacity of parents to 'choose children' using new technologies, present new challenges to philosophical ideas of freedom, responsibility and harm. This book responds to these challenges by proposing a new framework for thinking about the ethics of reproduction that emphasizes the ways that social norms affect decisions about who is born. The book provides clear and thorough discussions of some of the dominant problems in reproductive ethics - human enhancement and the notion of the normal, reproductive liberty and procreative beneficence, the principle of harm and discrimination against disability - while also proposing new ways of addressing these.

Features
► One of the first available monographs to combine reproductive ethics and post-structuralist philosophy, especially of biopolitics ► Provides clear, insightful discussion of key issues in reproductive ethics, including liberal eugenics, reproductive liberty, value pluralism, the principle of harm and disability ► Develops an innovative framework that will have a continuing impact on the way that reproductive ethics is done

From the contents

Fields of interest
Ethics; Medical Law; Humanities, general

C. Munthe, Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

The Price of Precaution and the Ethics of Risk

Christian Munthe undertakes an innovative, in-depth philosophical analysis of what the idea of a precautionary principle is and should be about. A novel theory of the ethics of imposing risks is developed and used as a foundation for defending the idea of precaution in environmental and technological policy making against its critics, while at the same time avoiding a number of identified flaws. The theory is shown to have far-reaching practical conclusions for areas such as bio-, information- and nuclear technology, and global environmental policy in areas such as climate change. The author argues that, while the price we pay for precaution must not be too high, we have to be prepared to pay it in order to act ethically defensible. A number of practical suggestions for precautionary regulation and policy making are made on the basis of this, and some challenges to basic ethical theory as well as consumerist societies, the global political order and liberal democracy are identified.

Features
► Presents a novel analysis of the scholarly and scientific debate about the precautionary principle ► Sets out a comprehensive overview of the basic theoretical starting points for a sound ethics of risk ► Presents and argues in favor of an innovative ethical theory about the imposition of risks ► Discusses the practical implications of the resulting theory of the morality ► Analyses the political implications

Contents
CONTENTS 1.- INTRODUCTION 2.- DIMENSIONS OF PRECAUTION 3.- PRECAUTION AND RATIONALITY 4. ETHICS AND RISKS 5.- THE MORALITY OF IMPOSING RISKS 6.- PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS REFERENCES.- INDEX

Fields of interest
Ethics; Law Theory/Law Philosophy; Political Science

J. Van der Rijt, RU Groningen, Netherlands

The Importance of Assent
A Theory of Coercion and Dignity

This book argues that respecting persons as moral agents requires considerable consideration be paid to the subjective moral judgments of individual persons. It shows that such judgments are important independently of their validity or even their reasonableness. Despite the great emphasis on respect for persons in present-day moral theory, the importance of a person’s subjective moral judgments has largely been neglected in existing literature. The book focuses particularly on the context of coercion and domination, both key notions in moral and political theory. The book combines Kantian and republican insights, two prominent present-day traditions which are rarely brought together even though they share many similar concerns.

Features
► Shows the importance of subjective moral judgments to moral theory and practice ► Brings together Kantian and republican moral theory ► Contains a new argument in favour of retributivism based on the dignity of victims ► Presents a new interpretation of moral law-giving as the basis for the dignity of persons

Fields of interest
Ethics; Philosophy of Technology; Political Science

Discount group
P

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► $139.00
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► $139.00
ISBN 978-94-007-1329-1

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