

# Architecture A Very Short Introduction Very Short Introductions

Design: A Very Short Introduction History Knowledge Writing and Script The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Russian Literature: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Theology: A Very Short Introduction Everything Music: A Very Short Introduction The Future Nothing George Bernard Shaw: A Very Short Introduction International Relations Key Terms in Literary Theory The English Language Measurement Economics Organizations John Heskett John H. Arnold Jennifer Nagel Andrew Robinson Linda Greenhouse Timothy Gowers Catriona Kelly Gary Thomas David Ford Philip Ball Nicholas Cook Jennifer M. Gidley Frank Close Christopher Wixson Christian Reus-Smit Mary Klages Simon Horobin David J. Hand Partha Dasgupta Mary Jo Hatch

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this book will transform the way you think about design by showing how integral it is to our daily lives from the spoon we use to eat our breakfast cereal to the medical equipment used to save lives john heskett goes beyond style and taste to look at how different cultures and individuals personalise objects

there are many stories we can tell about the past and we are not perhaps as free as we might imagine in our choice of which stories to tell or where those stories end john arnold s very short introduction is a stimulating essay about how we study and understand history the book begins by inviting us to think about various questions provoked by our investigation of history and explores the ways these questions have been answered in the past concepts such as causation interpretation and periodization are introduced by means of concrete examples of how historians work giving the reader a sense of the excitement of discovering not only the past but also ourselves about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

what is knowledge how does it differ from mere belief do you need to be able to justify a claim in order to count as knowing it how can we know that the outer world is real and not a dream questions like these are ancient ones and the branch of philosophy dedicated to answering them epistemology has been active for thousands of years in this thought provoking very short introduction jennifer nagel considers these classic questions alongside new puzzles arising from recent discoveries about humanity

language and the mind nagel explains the formation of major historical theories of knowledge and shows how contemporary philosophers have developed new ways of understanding knowledge using ideas from logic linguistics and psychology covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources nagel examines how progress has been made in understanding knowledge using everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

without writing there would be no records no history no books and no emails writing is an integral and essential part of our lives but when did it start why do we all write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today all of these questions are answered in this very short introduction starting with the origins of writing five thousand years ago with cuneiform and egyptian hieroglyphs andrew robinson explains how these early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the roman alphabet and the chinese characters he reveals how the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today including airport signage and text messaging resemble ancient ones much more closely than we might think about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

for 30 years pulitzer prize winning journalist linda greenhouse chronicled the activities of the u s supreme court and its justices as a correspondent for the new york times in this very short introduction she draws on her deep knowledge of the court s history and of its written and unwritten rules to show readers how the supreme court really works greenhouse offers a fascinating institutional biography of a place and its people men and women who exercise great power but whose names and faces are unrecognized by many americans and whose work often appears cloaked in mystery how do cases get to the supreme court how do the justices go about deciding them what special role does the chief justice play what do the law clerks do how does the court relate to the other branches of government greenhouse answers these questions by depicting the justices as they confront deep constitutional issues or wrestle with the meaning of confusing federal statutes throughout the author examines many individual supreme court cases to illustrate points under discussion ranging from marbury v madison the seminal case which established judicial review to the recent district of columbia v heller 2008 which struck down the district of columbia s gun control statute and which was surprisingly the first time in its history that the court issued an authoritative interpretation of the second amendment to add perspective greenhouse also compares the court to foreign courts revealing interesting differences for instance no other country in the world has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges the second edition of greenhouse s very short introduction tracks the changes in the court s makeup over the last eight years considers the landmark decisions of the obama and trump eras and reexamines the precarious fates of such precedents as roe v wade a superb overview packed with telling details this volume offers a matchless introduction to one of the pillars of american government

this book aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

this book is intended to capture the interest of anyone who has been attracted to russian culture through the greats of russian literature either through the texts themselves or encountering them in the cinema or opera rather than a conventional chronology of russian literature the book will explore the place and importance of

literature of all sorts in russian culture how and when did a russian national literature come into being what shaped its creation how have the russians regarded their literary language the book will use the figure of pushkin the russian shakespeare as a recurring example as his work influenced every russian writer who came after him whether poets or novelists it will look at such questions as why russian writers are venerated how they've been interpreted inside russia and beyond and the influences of such things as the folk tale tradition orthodox religion and the west about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved as it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this is an introduction to the subject of academic theology its basic approach is interrogative raising key questions so as to lead into a range of selected topics such as knowledge community salvation god prayer and evil

sample sections from the very short introductions series are presented in this encapsulation of human knowledge

this stimulating very short introduction to music invites us to really think about music and the values and qualities we ascribe to it the world teems with different kinds of music traditional folk classical jazz rock pop and each type of music tends to come with its own way of thinking drawing on a wealth of accessible examples ranging from beethoven to chinese zither music nicholas cook attempts to provide a framework for thinking about all music by examining the personal social and cultural values that music embodies the book reveals the shortcomings of traditional conceptions of music and sketches a more inclusive approach emphasizing the role of performers and listeners about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

from the beginning of time humans have been driven by both a fear of the unknown and a curiosity to know we have always yearned to know what lies ahead whether threat or safety scarcity or abundance throughout human history our forebears tried to create certainty in the unknown by seeking to influence outcomes with sacrifices to gods preparing for the unexpected with advice from oracles and by reading the stars through astrology as scientific methods improved and computer technology developed we became ever more confident of our capacity to predict and quantify the future by accumulating and interpreting patterns from the past yet the truth is there

is still no certainty to be had in this very short introduction jennifer gidley considers some of our most burning questions what is the future is the future a time yet to come or is it a utopian place does the future have a history is there only one future or are there many possible futures she asks if the future can ever be truly predicted or if we create our own futures both hoped for and feared by our thoughts feelings and actions and concludes by analysing how we can learn to study the future about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology's most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

george bernard shaw has been called the second greatest playwright in english after william shakespeare and one of the inventors of modern celebrity as the most famous public intellectual of his time beginning in the 1880s as a critic and as a playwright he transformed british drama bringing to it intellectual substance ethical imperatives and modernity itself setting the theatrical course for the subsequent century that his legacy endures seventy years after his death is testament to the prescience of his thinking and his prolific creativity this very short introduction looks at shaw's life starting with his upbringing in ireland and then takes a chronological approach through his works considering shaw's committed antagonism on behalf of a range of socio political issues his use of comedy as a mode for communicating serious ideas and his rhetorical style that pushes conventional boundaries christopher wixson provides an overview of the creative evolution of core themes throughout shaw's long career about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

international relations affects everyone's lives their security economic well being rights and freedoms and the environment they share this book explores international relations central concerns with the changing way that political authority is organised globally and provides the theoretical tools to understand the dynamics of the field

students of literature film and cultural studies need to understand key theoretical terms and concepts but often find it hard to get to grips with exactly what they mean

this book provides precise definitions of terms and concepts in literary theory along with explanations of the major movements and figures in literary and cultural theory and an extensive bibliography it is designed for the student who needs to know what a particular term means how it is used and where it comes from and enables them to apply the terms and concepts to their own investigations the three part structure provides clear definitions of key terms and ideas introductions to major figures including biographical and historical overviews and an annotated guide to important works this invaluable resource provides readers with an easily accessible and comprehensive reference guide to literary and cultural theory

this book provides a concise and accessible history of english engages with key debates concerning issues of correctness standards and dialects investigates the uses of english worldwide reflects on the future of the english language publisher description

this very short introduction explores the concept of measurement its mathematical underpinnings and its wide range of application from the sciences and social sciences to economics and commerce

economics has the capacity to offer us deep insights into some of the most formidable problems of life and offer solutions to them too combining a global approach with examples from everyday life partha dasgupta describes the lives of two children who live very different lives in different parts of the world in the mid west usa and in ethiopia he compares the obstacles facing them and the processes that shape their lives their families and their futures he shows how economics uncovers these processes finds explanations for them and how it forms policies and solutions along the way dasgupta provides an intelligent and accessible introduction to key economic factors and concepts such as individual choices national policies efficiency equity development sustainability dynamic equilibrium property rights markets and public goods about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

most of us recognize that organizations are everywhere you meet them on every street corner in the form of families and shops study in them work for them buy from them pay taxes to them but have you given much thought to where they came from what they are today and what they might become in the future how and why do they have so much influence over us and what influences them how do they contribute to and detract from the meaningfulness of lives and how might we improve them so they better serve our needs and desires this very short introductions addresses all of these questions and considers many more mary jo hatch introduces the concept of organizations by presenting definitions and ideas drawn from the a variety of subject areas including the physical sciences economics sociology psychology anthropology literature and the visual and performing arts drawing on examples from prehistory and everyday life from the animal kingdom as well as from business government and other formal organizations hatch provides a lively and thought provoking introduction to the process of organization about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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