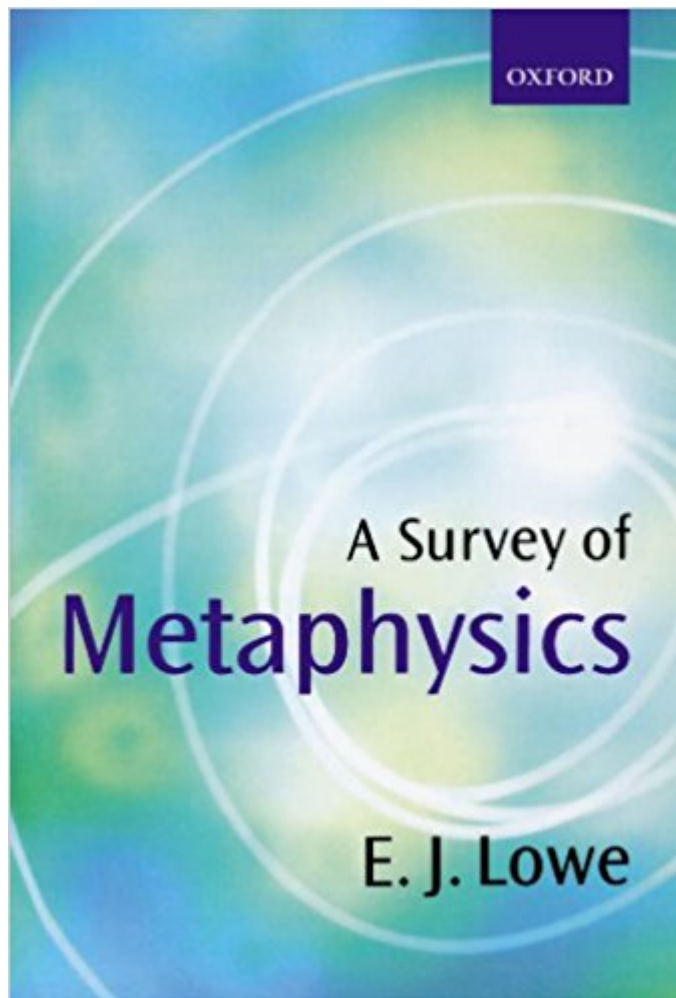


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A Survey Of Metaphysics



Synopsis

A systematic overview of modern metaphysics, *A Survey of Metaphysics* covers all of the most important topics in the field. It adopts the fairly traditional conception of metaphysics as a subject that deals with the deepest questions that can be raised concerning the fundamental structure of reality as a whole. The book is divided into six main sections that address the following themes: identity and change, necessity and essence, causation, agency and events, space and time, and universals and particulars. It focuses on contemporary views and issues throughout, rather than on the history of metaphysics.

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"This is a great book. It will immediately become--and will remain for some time--one of the two or three books that are seriously considered for any metaphysics course that uses a textbook.

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"This book provides excellent coverage for typical courses in metaphysics...Lowe has avoided unnecessary technicalities and jargon; the writing is both clear and accessible to typical philosophy undergraduates. He has done a remarkable job on this score."
--Professor Gary Rosenkrantz, University of North Carolina, Greenboro

E.J. Lowe is Professor of Philosophy at University of Durham

very lucid and useful. It has all the topics that I am interested in. I highly recommend it to anyone

who is interested in metaphysics.

"A Survey of Metaphysics" is an introduction to contemporary analytic metaphysics. It covers the nature of metaphysics, particulars, universals, modality, causation, and tense, among other topics. The book is thus devoted to general metaphysics, though Lowe briefly considers the bearing of some of the theories on topics in special metaphysics, in particular free will and the mind-body problem. While the coverage is comprehensive, Lowe does not sacrifice detail. He explains theories and introduces technical terminology clearly, and evaluates arguments for and against the theories carefully. While Lowe presents his own considered conclusions, he explains how one may disagree, and the book is not didactic. The book is also well-organised. The chapters are relatively self-contained, but Lowe explains how our conclusions on one subject may bear upon the discussion of another. The book is intended primarily for undergraduate philosophy students who are already familiar with the techniques of analysis and argument, and I think that it would serve as an excellent text for undergraduate philosophy courses. Lowe is one of the finest and most original of contemporary metaphysicians, and his introduction is recommended highly. Readers may also be interested in Loux's more advanced introduction, "Metaphysics: A Contemporary Introduction", which has slightly different coverage and emphasis.

The presentation is exemplary. E. J. Lowe is a philosopher of the first order and here he shows that he can also distill the essence of his discipline for mass consumption. He does it without sacrificing anything that is substantial. If you read just one book in metaphysics this one may be your best bet.

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