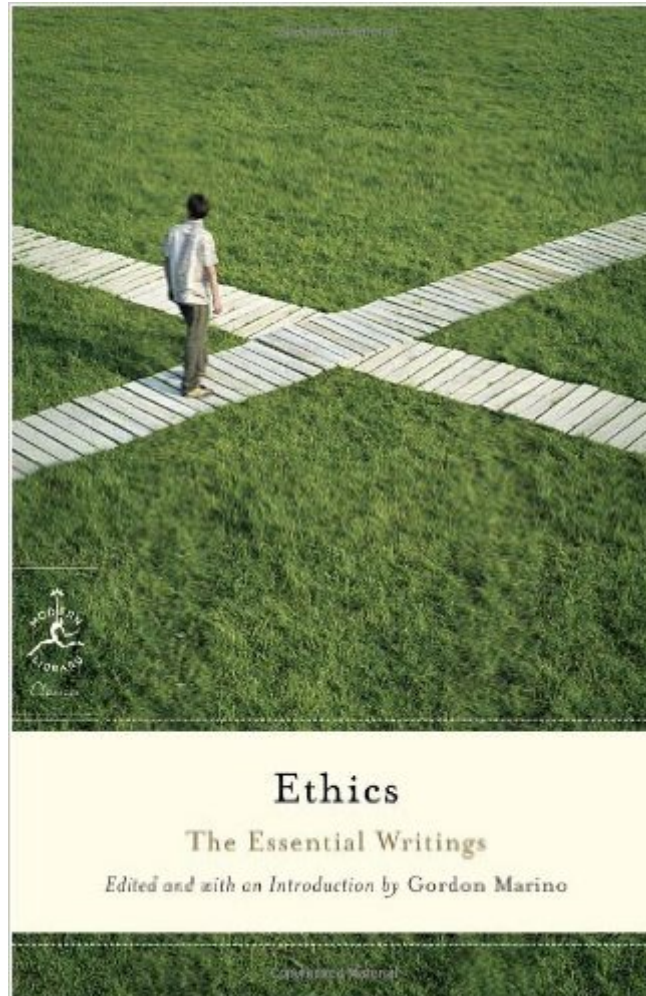


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# Ethics: The Essential Writings (Modern Library Classics)



## Synopsis

In *Ethics: The Essential Writings*, philosopher Gordon Marino skillfully presents an accessible, provocative anthology of both ancient and modern classics on matters moral. The philosophers represent 2,500 years of thought—from Plato, Kant, and Nietzsche to Alasdair MacIntyre, Susan Wolf, and Peter Singer—and cover a broad range of topics, from the timeless questions of justice, morality, and faith to the hot-button concerns of today, such as animal rights, our duties to the environment, and gender issues. Featuring an illuminating preamble, concise introductory essays on the giants of ethical theory, and incisive chapter headnotes to the modern offerings, this Modern Library edition is a perfect single-volume reference for students, teachers, and anyone eager to engage in reflection on ethical questions, including “What is the basis for our ethical views and judgments?”

• Gordon Marino is professor of philosophy and director of the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. A recipient of the Richard J. Davis Ethics Award for excellence in writing on ethics and the law, he is the author of *Kierkegaard in the Present Age*, co-editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard*, and editor of the Modern Library’s *Basic Writings of Existentialism*. His essays have appeared in *The New York Times*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is exactly what it says it includes, the basic (and essential) writings of moral philosophy. It offers the most central and important articles/books/arguments for ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Deontological Ethics, Cultural Relativism, etc. It ranges from Plato to Peter Singer and beyond. Normally, you’d have to buy numerous books to get all this philosophy, but it’s all compiled

together for a very low price. This book could easily be used for an introductory ethics class since it offers so much, and even more advance classes since many works can be exhaustively studied in their own courses. Once I saw this in my campus bookstore I knew I had to purchase it.

I use this book in my ethics classes but limit the number of readings because students often say it is too difficult. The readings which cover both theory and practice are well chosen, but I wish the author had given a little more introduction to each section; It is a good introductory book provided you are in an ethics class where you can discuss the schools and writers. Not easy on your own.

I used this book for an introductory ethics course I was teaching, and on the whole found it good. The range of philosophers is excellent, the texts selected are good, and the excerpts from the texts are well-chosen. You get a solid grounding in the history of ethical literature from Plato through Kierkegaard and Sartre, as well as plenty of contemporary philosophical writing on ethics in the second half of this large volume. My major gripe is that the book badly needs a revision. The latest edition is 2010. It needs to be reissued for this reason: there are a LOT of typos. Misspellings abound throughout the translations, and stray punctuation marks pop up often. It degrades student respect for the text when I constantly have to apologize on behalf of Mr. Marino for misspellings in the text.

I purchased this book for my Philosophical Ethics course. Great book, each and every person is bound to find something they like in here especially since it's many different authors and offers completely contrasting viewpoints for each topic. Use this book to open your mind, change your mind, strengthen your beliefs, or all three!

This was a great purchase for my ethics class. Not only does it contain some of the great discourses important for a central understanding of Western Classical thought, but it leads right into typical conundrums often debated in civilization today.

Authors of writings are a bit confusing in style of writing, a lot of rambling and a lot of "writing to self". Although some may find this confusing, on the other hand it seems like a direct insight to the philosopher's mind. I bought this for class, but ended up reading a bit extra just to explore the thoughts of the great minds featured in this book.

Really liked this text.

I also bought this for a college course, however this book is a primary document style. It does not really teach the concepts of the philosophers.

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