



Free Will

Gary Watson (Editor)

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The new edition of this highly successful text will once again provide the ideal introduction to free will. This volume brings together some of the most influential contributions to the topic of free will during the past 50 years, as well as some notable recent work.

Free Will Details

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Ben Phillips says

This book contains a decent selection of relatively modern papers that cover a wide variety of viewpoints on free will (existence of, compatibilism/incompatibilism, etc). I particularly liked "An Argument for Incompatibilism" by Peter van Inwagen and "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" by Harry G. Frankfurt not because I completely agreed with them (I didn't) but because I felt that they were both particularly well written. Neither was written to obfuscate and the arguments were presented in a logical manner. Barring a few exceptions, I think this is true of the other papers in this book as well.

JB says

philosophy,free will

Alex says

much expanded over the 1st edition!

Brian says

This volume collects almost two dozen essays addressing various problems in the understanding of free will, broadly construed, published over the past half-century or so. Particular emphasis is given to the debate over free will's compatibility with a deterministic physical universe, but attention is also given to questions of the nature of human agency, moral responsibility, and what exactly freedom consists in. As several of these texts make explicit, attempting to reconcile our intuitive experience of freedom with a reflective belief in materialistic causality reveals a rather anxiety-inducing paradox, and while no definitive answers will be found herein, each essay presents a sound theory worthy of serious consideration.

Tyler says

I stopped reading when I got to the Gary Watson chapter. It's not that none of the arguments or not convincing, but I was more interested in the question of if free will even exists. This seems to get almost immediately into free will and moral responsibility. This is fine, and it is an interesting question, but I felt that it overlooked what I was really interested in. All in all, though, the essays are very interesting. Sometimes a bit dry, but that's to be expected. I am not an expert on free will, and this doesn't seem to be a very great introduction to free will, so that is kind of a let down, but overall, I enjoyed what i read, but will be looking for a bit more of an intro and to an anthology of free will vs determinism.

M says

Excellent introduction, which gives an overview of the main debates about free will, but constructs arguments and counterarguments. Also, quite a good selection of articles. May consider reading them all at some point in the future when the Philosophy exam becomes a painless, or at least less painful and recent, memory.

Luke says

A modern introduction to free will. Not a topic I am particularly interested in, all things considered.
