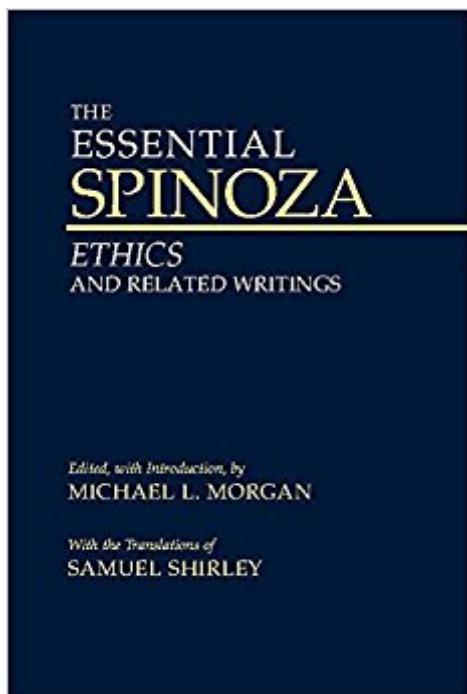


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The Essential Spinoza: Ethics And Related Writings (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Designed to facilitate a thoughtful and informed reading of Spinoza's Ethics, this anthology provides the Ethics, related writings, and two valuable appendices: List of Propositions from the Ethics, which helps readers to trace the development of key themes; and Citations in Proofs, a list of all the propositions, corollaries, and scholia in the Ethics, together with all the definitions, axioms, propositions, corollaries, and scholia to which Spinoza refers in the proofs--thus, readers can locate, for a given item, each instance where Spinoza refers to it.

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Customer Reviews

Absolutely magnificent edition! I will be using it in all my introductory courses. . . . I also will use it in my 16th and 17th-century History of Philosophy course. . . . Just a wonderful collection, great translations, good editorial additions as well. Terrific selection! --Abba Lessing, Professor of Philosophy, Lake Forest College

Designed to facilitate a thoughtful and informed reading of Spinoza's Ethics, this anthology provides the Ethics, related writings, and two valuable appendices: List of Propositions from the Ethics, which helps readers to trace the development of key themes; and Citations in Proofs, a list of all the propositions, corollaries, and scholia in the Ethics, together with all the definitions, axioms, propositions, corollaries, and scholia to which Spinoza refers in the proofs; thus, readers can locate, for a given item, each instance where Spinoza refers to it.

This is a perfect version of the Ethics. Shirley's translation is good, but what's better is the extensive reference material in the back of the book. Each proposition is listed singly, without proofs or scholia; a list of definitions and axioms; and also a cross-reference of each definition, axiom, or previous proposition Spinoza uses to prove any given proposition.

5/5 would definitely Spinoza all over again. So good. Once more around the block sweet Spinoza. So good.

A new book, with a good selection of Spinoza works. I think the book is a must reading if you are considering Spinoza as a theme for further and deeper studies or even if you need/want to have a general opinion about this important author.

What's in a name? "The Essential Spinoza: Ethics and Related Writings" - it seems clear enough, but in the world of internet book-buying, things are not always as they seem. There are in fact two books available through with this same title. One has been edited by two reputable academics, Morgan and Shirley, and contains an introduction and critical apparatus. The other is published by an outfit called Classic Books International, and is just the bare text - in a very unappealing typeface - that has all the looks of a copy-and-paste job, with the pasting done crooked onto the page most of the time. There are editions of Spinoza available for half the price of this "Classic Books" effort. I spent the extra money thinking I would be getting an attractive and authoritative presentation of this great philosopher's work. Next time I'll be more circumspect about favourable reviews ending with "This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition." In the meantime, this "Classic Book" is winging its way straight back to for refund.

For us Spinozists most one-volume compendia are welcome, and none more so than this one edited by Michael Morgan. Its contents include the Ethics in its entirety, the Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being (extracts), Principles of Cartesian Philosophy, Part I, and the Letters (selections). For its price I can't think of a better introductory text to Spinoza's profound system of thought. Highly recommended.

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