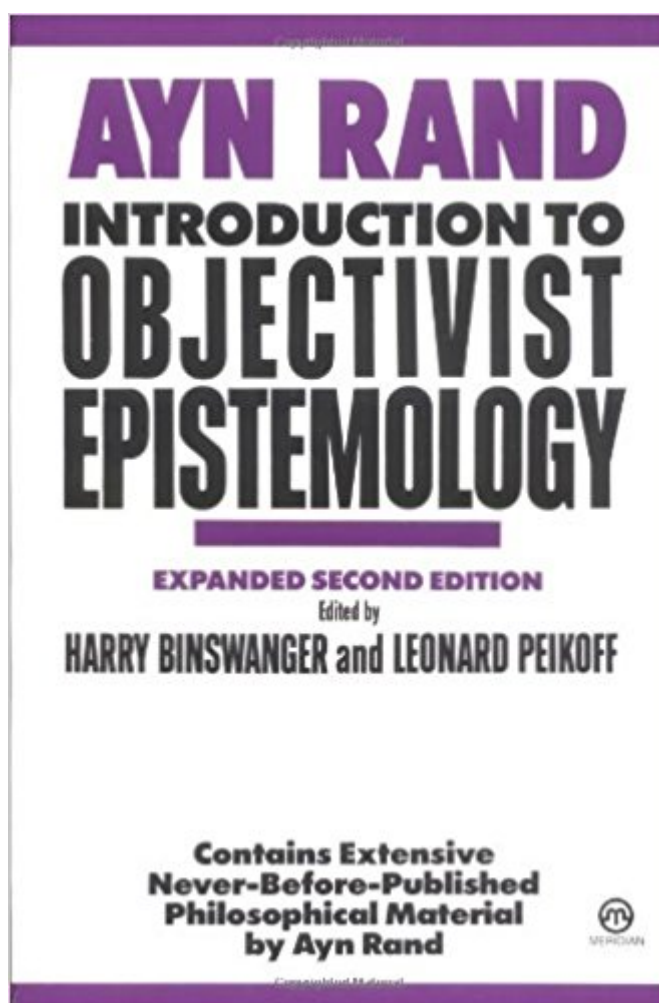


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# Introduction To Objectivist Epistemology: Expanded Second Edition



## Synopsis

Today man's mind is under attack by all the leading schools of philosophy. We are told that we cannot trust our senses, that logic is arbitrary, that concepts have no basis in reality. Ayn Rand opposes that torrent of nihilism, and she provides the alternative in this eloquent presentation of the essential nature--and power--of man's conceptual faculty. She offers a startlingly original solution to the problem that brought about the collapse of modern philosophy: the problem of universals. This brilliantly argued, superbly written work, together with an essay by philosophy professor Leonard Peikoff, is vital reading for all those who seek to discover that human beings can and should live by the guidance of reason.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Born February 2, 1905, Ayn Rand published her first novel, *We the Living*, in 1936. *Anthem* followed in 1938. It was with the publication of *The Fountainhead* (1943) and *Atlas Shrugged* (1957) that she achieved her spectacular success. Rand's unique philosophy, Objectivism, has gained a worldwide audience. The fundamentals of her philosophy are put forth in three nonfiction books, *Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology*, *The Virtues of Selfishness*, and *Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal*. They are all available in Signet editions, as is the magnificent statement of her artistic credo, *The Romantic Manifesto*.

This is epistemology from the objectivist viewpoint. Ayn Rand mainly covers the various aspect of concepts, from their formation to their critical use in human cognition. She demonstrates the

importance of objectivity and the disastrous results that inevitably follow if other methods are tried. Although brief, the book covers fundamental concepts and clearly shows the rational explanations which support Rand's viewpoints. Ayn Rand has a truly one of a kind mind and her focus and intelligence are unmatched. Her theories are fascinating and it is too bad more people do not examine them for themselves. She is a polarizing figure (as the extremity of the views, 1 or 5 stars, show) so I don't think my review will sway people one way or the other, but it is significant to see other fields, such as psychology and the science of expertise starting to recognize the importance of concepts in human life. Highly recommend this book. Her insight and clarity make all of her writings worth reading. It's only too bad she only devoted less than 90 pages to such an important topic. Also, the expanded edition is great because it includes numerous questions from follow on seminars she gave. The questions help the reader understand the topics better and also show insight to Rand's thinking methods.

Notwithstanding your opinion about Ayn Rand, the ideas in this book give one a clear understanding how reason figures in our lives. Notwithstanding your opinion about how emotion can affect the application of reason in solving problems, Ayn Rand's epistemology is the gold standard in understanding the role of reason. I give the book to the children in my extended family when they reach the milestone of passing from adolescence to adulthood.

This is real philosophy presented as a lowest common denominator and yet remain "real philosophy". Its thesis are presented on a scale of importance to human living, not of detached academic abstraction - although THAT IS an important and necessary process in anything to be considered a "real" science. "Existence exists" is presented plainly as an Aristotelian "indemonstrable First Principle" as something simply self-evident - which it is - but without the explanation of how controversial it is in contemporary thinking which does not at all - for the most part - understand what an "axiom" is supposed to be.

A complex work that should not be approached lightly and not until an individual has read some of Rand's other works to understand some of the core concepts of Objectivism. This work outlines the manner in which humans learn and understand their environment by focusing on the development of man's mind, giving clear definitions and processes under which a human learns.

If you are at that point in your life where the thought of watching soap operas or "reality" TV

physically makes you sick, this book will speak to you and you will feel like at last someone, possibly the first person ever, finally gets you. Ayn Rand, though long deceased was quite possibly the most intelligent person to ever live. That being said, many people will find out that she was a well know Atheist and immediately shut down any of her ideas and ideologies. TAKE WHAT YOU CAN USE AND LEAVE THE REST! No where in this book does Ayn Rand try to convert you to Atheism!!! This is a book of COMMON SENSE! NOT RELIGION!! I promise you! This book changed me life and possibly saved it in a time when I allowed emotions to run my life instead of me keeping my emotions in check by using logic and reason. This book explains why we SHOULD be making decisions using logic and reason instead of emotions. If you are suffering from anxiety, depression, PTSD or any other form of emotional based distress, this book will help you.

Great book to teach you the philosophy of Ayn Rand, Objectivism.

Ayn Rand should be one of the most studied philosophers today.

Great book. Only the first 90 pages or so are AR, the rest is supplemental material by Leonard Peikoff.

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