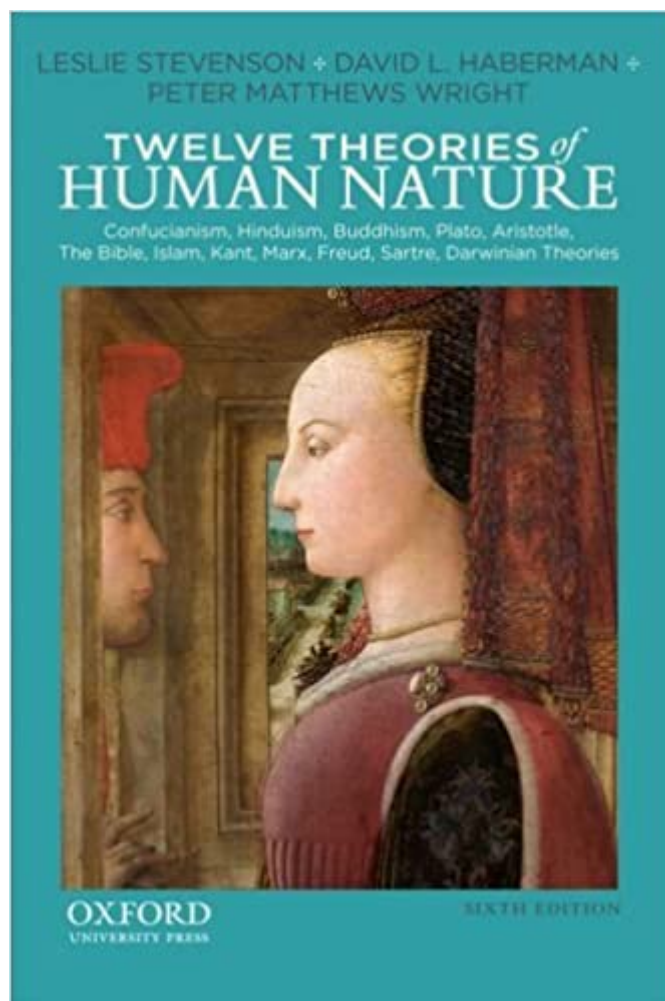


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# Twelve Theories Of Human Nature



## Synopsis

Over five previous editions, *Ten Theories of Human Nature* has been a remarkably popular introduction to some of the most influential developments in Western and Eastern thought. Now titled *Twelve Theories of Human Nature*, the sixth edition adds chapters on Islam (by Peter Wright) and Freud to those on Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Plato, Aristotle, the Bible, Kant, Marx, Sartre, and Darwinism. The authors juxtapose the ideas of these and other thinkers and traditions in a way that helps students understand how humanity has struggled to comprehend its nature. To encourage students to think critically for themselves and to underscore the similarities and differences between the many theories, the book examines each one on four points--the nature of the universe, the nature of humanity, the diagnosis of the ills of humanity, and the proposed cure for these problems. Ideal for introductory courses in human nature, philosophy, religious studies, and intellectual history, this unique volume will engage and motivate students and other readers to consider how we can understand and improve both ourselves and human society.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"*Twelve Theories of Human Nature* is the exact model of what an introductory textbook should be: a student coming to the subject for the first time will be able to understand the contentions of different (and difficult) theories of human nature; at the same time, nothing here is dumbed down. The book is consistently clear, precise, deep, engaging, and accurate."--Brian R. Clack, University of San Diego  
"Excellent. I have been using this book since the first edition. The inclusion of the treatment of

evolutionary theories of human nature is particularly valuable."--Val Dusek, University of New Hampshire  
"I have asked my students often whether they think the text is one they would like me to assign again next semester and they agree again and again. There really is no other better book."--Patricia Turrisi, University of North Carolina-Wilmington  
"I cannot think of another philosophy text written for the undergraduate on this topic that is as clear, unpretentious, and informative as this book."--Zachary Ernst, University of Missouri-Columbia

Leslie Stevenson is Honorary Reader in Philosophy, University of St. Andrews, Scotland. David L. Haberman is Professor of Religious Studies, Indiana University at Bloomington. Peter Matthews Wright is Assistant Professor of Religion at Colorado College.

As a textbook, I like that the chapters are all organized the same way. It makes it easy for my students to understand and compare theories. However, the writing gets a little conversational with lots of parenthetical asides, and some chapters seem a little too littered with opinion. My biggest complaint is that my book as well as many of my students' books fell apart before the semester's end.

If you are looking for a book that will give you a brief viewpoint of different theories of human nature, this is an excellent choice. While the details are indeed very brief, you should be able to grasp somewhat of an understanding of what the points of view are for Freud, Marx, Aristotle and several others. It's somewhat of an easy read, and if there is one of the theories that you want to learn more about, at the end of each chapter, further suggested readings for more information are listed.

This short work is perfectly fine for the reader who wants to expose himself to the basics of most major philosophic and scientific thought concerning human nature. From Eastern religious traditions such as Confucianism and Buddhism through Islam, Christianity and 20th Century theories of scientific behaviorists like B.F. Skinner the book's scope obviously limits its depth. Clearly written with a minimum of jargon the book might best be described as a useful primer to the beginning student of the world's most notable theorists on the topic of human nature.

Excellent publication by Oxford, which I received in perfect form through the regular mail.

I was looking for a little Freud and others, too, but didn't get that. What is in the book is good

information, though. Well written and accessible.

Used this book for a Philosophy course and felt I searched the web for clarification a lot, but the book was helpful.

Needed the Book for my College Class, they made it so easy and Convenient!

good customer service and product

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