

Contents

Notes on Contributors	xi
Acknowledgments	xvii
Sources	xix
Introduction	1
Part I: What is Philosophy?	3
<i>Socrates and the Spirit of Philosophy</i>	
1 Flatulence and Philosophy: A Lot of Hot Air, or the Corruption of Youth?	5
<i>William W. Young, III</i>	
<i>Logic and Fallacies</i>	
2 The Chewbacca Defense: A <i>South Park</i> Logic Lesson	14
<i>Robert Arp</i>	
<i>Relativism and Truth</i>	
3 Wikiality, Truthiness, and Gut Thinking: Doing Philosophy Colbert Style	23
<i>David Kyle Johnson</i>	
Part II: Epistemology	35
Introduction	35
<i>The Ethics of Belief</i>	
4 You Know, I Learned Something Today: Stan Marsh and the Ethics of Belief	37
<i>Henry Jacoby</i>	

	<i>Skepticism</i>	
5	Tumbling Down the Rabbit Hole: Knowledge, Reality, and the Pit of Skepticism <i>Matt Lawrence</i>	44
	<i>Definition of Knowledge</i>	
6	Adama's True Lie: Earth and the Problem of Knowledge <i>Eric J. Silverman</i>	54
7	Wakandan Resources: The Epistemological Reality of <i>Black Panther's</i> Fiction <i>Ruby Komic</i>	62
	Part III: Metaphysics	71
	Introduction	71
	<i>The Nature of Reality</i>	
8	Life on a Holodeck: What <i>Star Trek</i> Can Teach Us About the True Nature of Reality <i>Dara Fogel</i>	73
	<i>Mind and Body</i>	
9	Astral Bodies and Cartesian Souls: Mind–Body Dualism in <i>Doctor Strange</i> <i>Dean A. Kowalski</i>	82
10	Mind and Body in Zion <i>Matt Lawrence</i>	90
	<i>Personal Identity</i>	
11	Amnesia, Personal Identity, and the Many Lives of Wolverine <i>Jason Southworth</i>	101
	<i>Freedom and Determinism</i>	
12	The Consolation of Bilbo: Providence and Free Will in Middle-Earth <i>Grant Sterling</i>	107
13	Inception and Free Will: Are They Compatible? <i>John R. Fitzpatrick and David Kyle Johnson</i>	115
	<i>Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence</i>	
14	Turing's Dream and Searle's Nightmare in <i>Westworld</i> <i>Lucia Carrillo González</i>	123
15	What is it Like to Be a Host? <i>Bradley Richards</i>	128
	<i>Time Travel</i>	
16	The Time Travel in <i>Avengers: Endgame</i> <i>David Kyle Johnson</i>	136

Part IV: Philosophy of Religion	145
Introduction	145
<i>The Problem of Evil</i>	
17 <i>South Park</i> , Cartmanland, and the Problem of Evil	147
David Kyle Johnson	
<i>The Existence of God</i>	
18 Hidden Mickeys and the Hiddenness of God	156
Robert K. Garcia and Timothy Pickavance	
<i>Faith</i>	
19 The Jedi Knights of Faith: Anakin, Luke, and Søren (Kierkegaard)	164
William A. Lindenmuth	
Part V: Ethics	173
Introduction	173
<i>Utilitarianism and Deontology</i>	
20 Why Doesn't Batman Kill the Joker?	175
Mark D. White	
21 Means, Ends, and the Critique of Pure Superheroes	183
J. Robert Loftis	
<i>Virtue Ethics</i>	
22 Can Eleanor Really Become a Better Person? (<i>The Good Place</i>)	191
Eric J. Silverman and Zachary Swanson	
<i>Friendship</i>	
23 "You're a Sucky, Sucky Friend": Seeking Aristotelian Friendship	
in <i>The Big Bang Theory</i>	198
Dean A. Kowalski	
<i>Stoicism</i>	
24 "You Are Asking Me to Be Rational": Stoic Philosophy and the Jedi Order	207
Matt Hummel	
Part VI: Challenges to Traditional Ethics	215
Introduction	215
<i>Nietzschean Critique</i>	
25 Rediscovering Nietzsche's Übermensch in Superman as a Heroic Ideal	217
Arno Bogaerts	
<i>Existentialist Ethics</i>	
26 Knowing Who You Are: Existence Precedes Essence in <i>Moana</i>	228
William J. Devlin	

	<i>Feminist Critique</i>	
27	Becoming a (Wonder) Woman: Feminism, Nationalism, and the Ambiguity of Female Identity <i>J. Lenore Wright</i>	236
28	The Silence of Our Mother: Eywa as the Voice of Feminine Care Ethics (<i>Avatar</i>) <i>George A. Dunn and Nicolas Michaud</i>	245
	<i>Environmental Ethics</i>	
29	"Everything Is Backwards Now": <i>Avatar</i> , Anthropocentrism, and Relational Reason <i>Jeremy David Bendik-Keymer</i>	253
	Part VII: Social and Political Philosophy	263
	Introduction	263
	<i>Social Contract Theory</i>	
30	Maester Hobbes Goes to King's Landing (<i>Game of Thrones</i>) <i>Greg Littmann</i>	265
31	<i>Lost's</i> State of Nature <i>Richard Davies</i>	273
	<i>Marxism</i>	
32	Federation Treconomics: Marx, the Federation, and the Shift from Necessity to Freedom <i>Jeff Ewing</i>	284
	<i>Rawls</i>	
33	Superman and Justice <i>Christopher Robichaud</i>	292
	<i>Libertarianism</i>	
34	Cartman Shrugged: <i>South Park</i> and Libertarian Philosophy <i>Paul A. Cantor</i>	299
	<i>Race</i>	
35	Ninjas, Kobe Bryant, and Yellow Plastic: The LEGO Minifigure and Race <i>Roy T. Cook</i>	311
36	When Tech Meets Tradition: How Wakandan Technology Transcends Anti-Blackness <i>Timothy E. Brown</i>	321
	<i>Political Manipulation</i>	
37	<i>Black Mirror</i> and Political Manipulation: How Are We Tricked into Dehumanizing Others? <i>Bertha Alvarez Manninen</i>	329

	<i>The #MeToo Movement</i>	
38	<i>Black Mirror</i> and #DeathTo: What Are the Consequences of Trial by Twitter? <i>Aline Maya</i>	338
Part VIII: Eastern Views		349
	Introduction	349
39	The Brick, the Plate, and the Uncarved Block: LEGO as an Expression of the <i>Dao</i> <i>Steve Bein</i>	351
40	LEGO, Impermanence, and Buddhism <i>David Kahn</i>	359
41	Zen and the Art of Imagineering: Disney's Escapism Versus Buddhism's Liberation <i>Steve Bein</i>	367
Part IX: The Afterlife and Meaning		375
	Introduction	375
	<i>An Afterlife Gives Meaning</i>	
42	Beyond Godric's Hollow: Life After Death and the Search for Meaning (<i>Harry Potter</i>) <i>Jonathan L. Walls and Jerry L. Walls</i>	377
	<i>An Afterlife Wouldn't Give Meaning</i>	
43	Why it Wouldn't be Rational to Believe You're in The Good Place (and Why You Wouldn't Want to Be Anyway) <i>David Kyle Johnson</i>	384
	Index	393