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ATU Faculty Open Educational Resources

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Introduction to Philosophy

Jeff Mitchell

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OER Review: An OER – is an Open Educational Resource that allows a faculty member to deliver a course without expense to students. Please refer to the Library Guide to find OER Resources: <https://bit.ly/oersources> By adopting an OER, you could have your course identified as ZTC-Zero Textbook Cost.

Faculty Member Name: **Jeff Mitchell**
Department: **History and Political Science**

What OER Book are you reviewing (Title): *Introduction to Philosophy*
Location/ Link where it can be found: <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-philosophy>

Does the author have appropriate authority of standing to release a book? (Professor associated with a university etc.): **The senior contributing author is Nathan Smith, who teaches at Houston Community College.**

For what course are you reviewing this book: **PHIL 2003: Introduction to Philosophy**

What is this course's average enrollment:
Fall **20 to 25 students per section**
Spring **20 to 25 students per section**
Summer

What is the current resource used for this class and how much does it generally cost?

In this instance, I'm not interested in replacing a current resource but rather in developing a new one. Because I sometimes teach two sections of Intro to Philosophy in the same semester, I want to create a second version of the course in which I employ a different approach. By doing so I hope to avoid instructor burnout and perhaps even discover better ways of teaching.

What are your course objectives for this course? (copy and paste)

- (1) To introduce the student to the special perspective that philosophy has to offer**
- (2) To improve the student's critical thinking skills**

Which chapters or sections align to each course objective.

Course Objective	Section or Chapter that addresses it.
#1	Chapters 2 and 5
#2	All the other chapters

Which Course objectives are not covered in the book.

Course Objective
An introduction to the main forms of inductive reasoning.

If you were to use this book, what would be your plan to find material to meet the uncovered objectives? (One option is to find another OER to meet it. Multiple Open Educational Resources can be used for a course)

I plan to use another OER textbook.

Are there additional materials available (power points, test questions etc..)

Yes, this textbook constitutes a very complete pedagogical package that includes an instructor's manual, power point slides, and a test bank for each chapter.

Is the author contact information available to contact if there are more materials?

Yes.

What are the strengths of this book? (Think: writing style, citations, currency, diagrams etc..)

The textbook fully exploits the fact that it is online by directly incorporating video clips. Overall, it is quite visually appealing as every chapter is amply illustrated with photos, drawings, and maps.

Most importantly, it offers a concise but nevertheless comprehensive overview of the discipline.

What are the weaknesses of this book?

I don't see any worth mentioning at this point. However, I can't really be sure until I have actually taught a class with it.

To be able to use this book – what will you have to supplement?

I may need to supplement it with some primary source readings.

Compared to your previous purchased book – is the effort required to use this OER worth it _ why or why not?

Yes, it is worthwhile, since it offers the students a high-quality academic resource at no cost.

If you were to use this book, would you also use a homework system? If yes, which one would you use (LibreTexts and Lumen learning are some examples)

I don't anticipate using a homework system with this book.

Please submit the completed review to: oer@atu.edu