**Introduction to Kierkegaard and Existentialism**

*Kierkegaard* by Julia Watkin

Julia Watkin presents Kierkegaard as a Christian thinker, but as one who, ‘without authority,’ boldly challenged his contemporaries through an authorship that also Socratically forced them to take a position of choice between different lifestyles and worldviews. A key feature of the book is the presentation of Kierkegaard’s two pictures of Christianity. On the one hand, Judge William’s Christian ethics support and inspire culture, on the other, Christianity is shown as ‘asocial’ and counter-cultural. It is in this tension of Christianly outlooks, both derived from the New Testament, that Kierkegaard’s paradoxical attitude to Danish Lutheran Christianity, his polemic against the Church, is to be understood.

Through discussion of Kierkegaard’s place in the Christian tradition, Watkin also shows why Kierkegaard has been hailed internationally as a significant figure for theology, philosophy, psychology and literature. Kierkegaard's voice not only spoke to his own time, it also speaks to the many faiths and cultures of the modern world.

*Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B4378 .C5 W38 1997*

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*Kierkegaard’s Way to the Truth: An Introduction to the Authorship of Søren Kierkegaard* by Gregor Malantschuk and Howard V Hong

Kierkegaard intended to present his thought and write in such a way that the reader would become involved in the issues, unlike many other philosophers. Malanthschuk intended to give an insight into the works of Søren Kierkegaard, in addition to multiple other aims. First, Malanthschuk wanted to point out Kierkegaard's significance for the spiritual conflicts of the present tie as well as for those of the future. Additionally, he sought to demonstrate Kierkegaard’s claim that his authorship is developed in progressive stages. The third aim of Malanthschuk is to demonstrate the wonderful design working through the authorship, which Kierkegaard did not understand at first but eventually attributed to “the Governing Power.”

*Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B4377 .M33313 1987*
The Laughter Is on My Side: An Imaginative Introduction to Kierkegaard by Roger Poole and Hendrik Stangerup

Here is an engaging and enjoyable alternative to the more solemn introductions to Søren Kierkegaard that are currently available: The Laughter Is on My Side entices us into Kierkegaard’s way of looking at the world. The book replaces the inaccessible Kierkegaard of philosophical legend with an ironic, witty, shrewdly observant writer, writing for the amusement of writing, and not for the grimmer satisfactions of instructing or upbraiding. Above all, the Kierkegaard revealed by Poole and Strangerup becomes, in the deepest sense, our contemporary.

The first section of the work is full of urbane and erotic materials and has much to say about his famous broken engagement to Regine Olsen. A section called “Women” will be of special interest to feminists. “The Midnight Hour” presents Kierkegaard’s most anguished and existential passages. Lastly, “1848:1984” presents Kierkegaard as an incisive and relevant political thinker in a way that has never been attempted before.

Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 1 A221 P822 1989

Søren Kierkegaard: An Introduction to His Life and Philosophy by Peter P. Rohde

A popular account of the life and works of Søren Kierkegaard, the great nineteenth century Danish philosopher, is something that has long been needed. May learned books have been published dealing with his philosophical and theological views: now Peter P. Rohde has written an account of Kierkegaard’s rather tragic career, commenting on his principal books and emphasizing those of his characteristics that have made him a foreground figure in modern philosophy.

In these pages Kierkegaard speaks to us, to a large extent, for the author repeatedly quotes from his books and journals. As an added aid to the reader, a short glossary is included at the end of the terms Kierkegaard employed and which in a nutshell comprise the principles of his philosophy, the origin of modern Existentialism.

The book’s documentary nature is enhanced by the inclusion of a large number of pictures of contemporary celebrities and places of note, many of which have never been published before. This is a book which every student of literature and philosophy will want to possess. It exposes a religious attitude as unorthodox, but as sincere and germane to our troubled age as the Society of Friends. It is also the biography of a very remarkable man.

Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B4376 .R592
Introduction to Kierkegaard by Régis Jolivet

Kierkegaard stands out today as one of the greatest among thinkers who have had the noble ambition to be the apostles of Christian truth. The acknowledged father of present-day existentialism, Kierkegaard has had until now no general introduction to his life and thought. Professor Jolivet’s book supplies that important need.

The first part of the book is a biological sketch showing the major formative influences on his thought and career; his relations with his father, his betrothal and his conflict with the Danish Established Church. Part Two contains an analysis of Kierkegaard’s spiritual life, which seeks to investigate the bases of his religious experience and to examine the psychological climate of his thought. In Part Three, Kierkegaard’s thought is discussed in some detail against a background of the facts established in the two preceding sections. Jolivet offers a unique perspective, approaching Kierkegaard not as a “subject,” but as one would a friend, and he writes of him with sympathy as well as with insight.

Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2  B4376  .J613

The Cambridge Companion to Kierkegaard by Alastair Hannay and Gordon Daniel Marino

Few thinkers have been so consistently misunderstood as Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855). Amongst the many myths that have attach themselves to his work is the belief that Kierkegaard was an irrationalist who denied the value of clear and honest thinking. The truth is that Kierkegaard did deny the power of reason to uncover universal and objective truth in matters of value, but in the current philosophical climate there is nothing irrational about that.

The contributors to this companion probe the full depth of Kierkegaard’s thought through specially commissioned essays to reveal his distinctive subtlety. The topics covered include Kierkegaard’s views on art and religion, ethics and psychology, theology and politics, and knowledge and virtue. Much attention is devoted to the pervasive influence of Kierkegaard on twentieth-century philosophy and theology.


Or access it online:

https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/the-cambridge-companion-to-kierkegaard/D4587D6E17C3C6D721982B7A9303250F
The Essential Kierkegaard by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong

This is the most comprehensive anthology of Søren Kierkegaard. The selections in this text represent every major aspect of Kierkegaard’s extraordinary career. They reveal the powerful mix of philosophy, psychology, theology, and literary critics that made Kierkegaard one of the most compelling writers of the nineteenth century and a shaping force in the twentieth. With an introduction to Kierkegaard’s writings as a whole and explanatory notes for each selection, this is the essential one-volume guide to a thinker who changed the course of modern intellectual history.

The anthology begins with Kierkegaard’s early journal entries and traces the development of his work chronologically, including selections from his works that reflect the unique character of Kierkegaard’s work, with its shifting pseudonyms, complex dialogues, and potent combination of irony, satire, sermon, polemic, humor, and fiction. We see the esthetic, ethical, and ethical-religious ways of life initially presented as dialogue in two parallel series of pseudonymous and signed works and later in the “second authorship” as direct address. Themes that bind all of Kierkegaard’s works together are featured, particularly focusing on what it means to exist. Together, the selections show more completely than any other book why his work, in all its creativity, variety, and power, continues to speak so directly today to so many readers around the world.

Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 1 A221 H772 2000
Or access it online:

Introduction to Existentialism by Marjorie Grene

Marjorie Grene does more than defame or exalt existentialism. She exposes the inadequacies in the thought of its five leading thinkers - Jean-Paul Sartre, Heidegger, Kierkegaard, Marcel, and Jaspers - and concludes that they do not present “the new morality we may hope for, but only… a new expression of our old despair.” But she also recognizes their original and valid contributions and shows that existentialism is concerned with a basic human problem. For the existentialist, every man is born to set right a time out of joint. And every man’s tragedy, like Hamlet’s, lies in the odds against him and in the action he takes to right them.

Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B819 .G68 1984
**Existentialism: An Introduction by Kevin Aho**

This text is the ideal introduction for upper level students and anyone interested in knowing more about one of the most vibrant and important areas of philosophy today. It provides an accessible and scholarly introduction to the core ideas of the existentialist tradition. Aho draws on a wide range of existentialist thinkers in chapters centering on the key themes of freedom, being-in-the-world, alienation, nihilism, anxiety, and authenticity. He also addresses important but often overlooked issues in the canon of existentialism, with discussions devoted to the role of embodiment, the movement’s contribution to ethics, politics, and environmental and comparative philosophies, as well as its influence on contemporary psychiatry and psychotherapy. The book covers both secular thinkers and religious authors.

In this engaging text Aho shows why existentialism cannot be easily dismissed as a moribund or outdated movement. In the aftermath of ‘God’s death,’ existentialist philosophy engages questions with lasting philosophical significance. By showing how existentialism offers insight into what it means to be human, the author illuminates existentialism’s enduring value.

*Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B819 .A4 2014*

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**Existentialism: A Very Short Introduction by Thomas R Flynn**

Existentialism is both a philosophy and a way of life. With its emphasis on individuality, freedom, and personal responsibility in the modern world, it was one of the major philosophical movements of the 20th century, and its impact on the arts, humanism, and politics can still be felt today. In this text, Flynn examines the philosophy at the core of the movement, providing a clear and accessible account of what existentialism really means. He focuses on several key existential themes, and along the way introduces the leading existentialist thinkers, from Kierkegaard and Nietzsche to Sartre and de Beauvoir.

*Location: Kierkegaard Library > Kierk 2 B819 .F55 2006*

Or access it online: