



Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11)

By David S. Oderberg

Download now

Read Online 

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11)

By David S. Oderberg

Real Essentialism presents a comprehensive defence of neo-Aristotelian essentialism. Do objects have essences? Must they be the kinds of things they are in spite of the changes they undergo? Can we know what things are really like – can we define and classify reality? Many, if not most, philosophers doubt this, influenced by centuries of empiricism, and by the anti-essentialism of Wittgenstein, Quine, Popper, and other thinkers. *Real Essentialism* reinvigorates the tradition of realist, essentialist metaphysics, defending the reality and knowability of essence, the possibility of objective, immutable definition, and its relevance to contemporary scientific and metaphysical issues such as whether essence transcends physics and chemistry, the essence of life, the nature of biological species, and the nature of the person.

 [Download Real Essentialism \(Routledge Studies in Contempora ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Real Essentialism \(Routledge Studies in Contempo ...pdf](#)

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11)

By David S. Oderberg

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg

Real Essentialism presents a comprehensive defence of neo-Aristotelian essentialism. Do objects have essences? Must they be the kinds of things they are in spite of the changes they undergo? Can we know what things are really like – can we define and classify reality? Many, if not most, philosophers doubt this, influenced by centuries of empiricism, and by the anti-essentialism of Wittgenstein, Quine, Popper, and other thinkers. *Real Essentialism* reinvigorates the tradition of realist, essentialist metaphysics, defending the reality and knowability of essence, the possibility of objective, immutable definition, and its relevance to contemporary scientific and metaphysical issues such as whether essence transcends physics and chemistry, the essence of life, the nature of biological species, and the nature of the person.

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg

Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #869305 in Books
- Published on: 2008-01-30
- Released on: 2009-06-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .75" w x 6.14" l, 1.03 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 314 pages

 [Download Real Essentialism \(Routledge Studies in Contempora ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Real Essentialism \(Routledge Studies in Contempo ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

'[Real Essentialism] presents vigorous and wide-ranging arguments in defense of an Aristotelian metaphysical scheme ... This book puts forward many unfashionable views. But it argues for them with vigor and erudition.' – Crawford L. Elder, *Analysis Reviews*

'Oderberg ... exemplifies the unfortunately rare combination in analytical philosophy of rigorous and historically informed argumentation ... This book places hylomorphism squarely on the table for discussion.' – Sebastian Rehnman, *Review of Metaphysics*

'a major intellectual achievement...I can particularly recommend, for those interested in such matters--as many metaphysicians presently are--his very well informed discussion of powers and laws of nature, which raises important objections to many current accounts of these.' -E.J. Lowe, *The Philosophical Quarterly*

"...there can be no doubt that this learned and rigorous work deserves a wide readership."-Edward Feser, *Faith and Philosophy*

From the Author

Real Essentialism sets out a system of realist metaphysics in the Aristotelian tradition, applying it to fundamental metaphysical and scientific problems. First, the theory is contrasted with the contemporary essentialism of Saul Kripke, Hilary Putnam, and their followers, which is shown to be inadequate to the task of justifying real, objective, knowable essences. Next, the book criticizes the anti-essentialism of Locke, Quine, Wittgenstein, and Popper. After a further defence of the reality and knowability of essence, the system of real essentialism is laid out, beginning with a defence of hylomorphism - prime matter and substantial form as the foundation of essence. There follows an account of substance, classification, individuation, and identity. Essence and existence, powers, and laws of nature are then analyzed, followed by properties, artefacts, and origins. The book concludes by applying real essentialism in great depth to three central problems at the interface of science and metaphysics: the nature of life, the reality of biological species, and the essence of the person.

Real Essentialism has as its underlying idea the view that traditional metaphysics is relevant to contemporary philosophy and science. It is not an outmoded relic of pre-Enlightenment thinking, but a vital and reasonable way of solving perennial philosophical problems as well as many of the foundational and methodological questions thrown up by contemporary science. Hylomorphism, long discarded as an Aristotelian relic, is again brought to the forefront of metaphysical thinking. In particular, the doctrine of substantial forms, for centuries rejected outright by the overwhelming majority of philosophers, is rehabilitated. Hylomorphism may have been tossed aside, but for no good reason other than historical prejudice. Its critics can be answered, as can anti-essentialists in general. The system of Aristotelian taxonomy, never fully abandoned by scientists but long suspected of inadequacy, especially in biology, is defended in a way that has not been done for a long time. Real Essentialism puts traditional metaphysics back in its rightful place at the centre of philosophical and scientific thinking. It will be of interest to professional philosophers and scientists alike,

especially those working in metaphysics and biology.

About the Author

David S. Oderberg is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Reading. He has published many books and articles in metaphysics, philosophical logic, ethics, philosophy of religion, and other subjects.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Doyle:

Book will be written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can learn everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A reserve Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) will make you to always be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think which open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or suited book with you?

Dolores Schreiber:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your limited time to read it because this all time you only find book that need more time to be read. Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) can be your answer as it can be read by you who have those short spare time problems.

Desiree Grajeda:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to your account is Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book appropriate all of you.

Naomi Dillon:

Is it you actually who having spare time after that spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) can be the respond to, oh how comes? The new book you

know. You are thus out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these books have than the others?

**Download and Read Online Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg
#FBTXGYOI09A**

Read Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg for online ebook

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg books to read online.

Online Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg ebook PDF download

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg Doc

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg Mobipocket

Real Essentialism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy, Vol. 11) By David S. Oderberg EPub