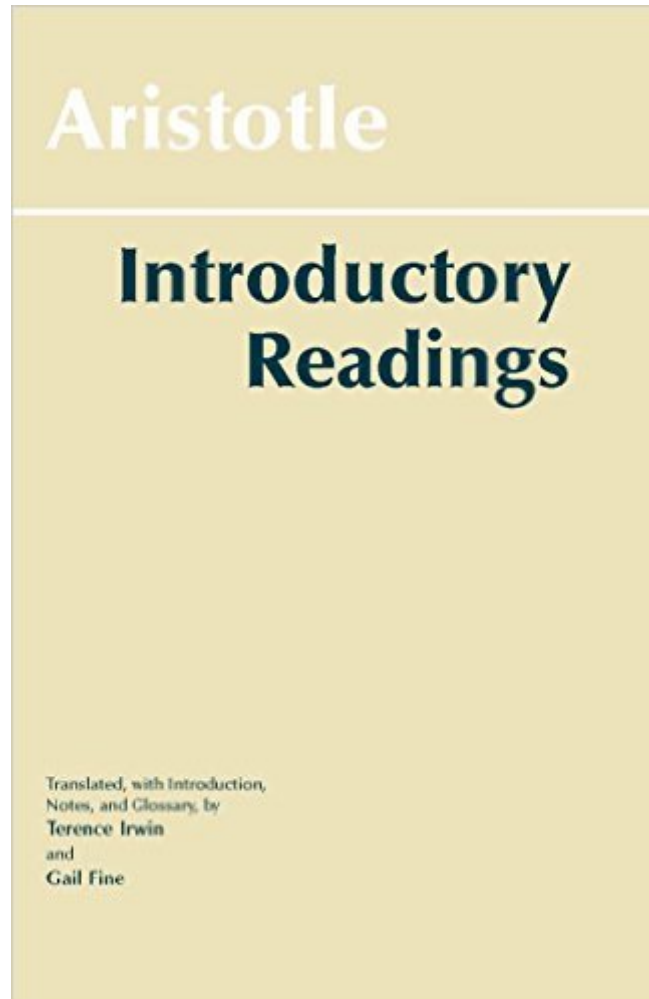


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Aristotle: Introductory Readings (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Drawn from the translations and editorial aids of Irwin and Fine's *Aristotle, Selections* (Hackett Publishing Co., 1995), this anthology will be most useful to instructors who must try to do justice to Aristotle in a semester-long ancient-philosophy survey, but it will also be appropriate for a variety of introductory-level courses. *Introductory Readings* provides accurate, readable, and integrated translations that allow the reader to follow Aristotle's use of crucial technical terms and to grasp the details of his argument. Included are adaptations of the glossary and notes that helped make its parent volume a singularly useful aid to the study of Aristotle.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Irwin's and Fine's translations merit a five-star rating. They are expert scholars who have for decades been at the forefront of Aristotle research. Besides 100% technical accuracy they helpfully subscript (i) Aristotle's keyterms which can't be uniformly translated and (ii) those keyterms which have only one English equivalent ('form', 'being', 'knowledge', etc). However, I warn customers NOT to get this book (I made the mistake) but instead get Fine and Irwin's *"Aristotle: Selections"* (Hackett 1995) from which the *"Introductory Readings"* are excerpted. You'll need their full glossary and the more extensive notes if you want to understand Aristotle AT ALL. In that regard *Introductory Readings* is useless and that's why it merits a one-star. Two comments in closing. 1) Every translation of Aristotle is an interpretation, and Irwin's and Fine's even more so than others due to its high

frequency of interpolations. It's therefore indispensable to have another reader - say, Ackrill's (Princeton 1987) - beside you to compare what's going on.²) "Selections" contains Irwin's phenomenal translation of the Nichomachean Ethics. However, if you are predominantly interested in that work be sure to get Irwin's full translation (Hackett 1999) first. His extensive commentary, targeted at beginners, scores a ten-star!

Naturally Aristotle's works themselves are not what this review is about -- they are far beyond criticism here. Also, the translation is excellent. The works DO include all the major works -- to wit, the Logic, Politics, Ethics, On the Soul, Physics, Metaphysics, on the Parts of Animals, Rhetoric and Poetics. These are indeed the works in which Aristotle was most influential, perhaps in particular due to his survey of previous views (especially Plato) and how he thinks they are wrong. They include his view of the prime mover and of the soul; his criticism of the theory of Ideas; his ethics and politics -- that should be read as a whole; his idea of scientific causes and explanations; and so on. "Major" does not mean "correct" of course -- e.g., Aristotle's Poetics is not highly regarded, seeing its essence as, very roughly, imitation so as to produce particular feelings; Aristotle's extremely systematic mind was probably not poetic at all. The problem is that the selection is a good introduction, but the issue is that this is a selection. So it cannot be recommended -- nor intended -- as a replacement of reading the entire works themselves. Thus, only four stars -- not intended to dismiss the quality of the book, but to tell the reader that if they want to study Aristotle, this can be only a start.

I needed the book Introductory Readings for my philosophy class. The book helps understand the ideals and arguments of Aristotle. It was written especially for students. Introductory Readings was originally in Greek, so the translation done by Hackett Publishing is by far one of the most understandable, since it is hard to translate Greek to English. I would highly recommend picking this up if you want to understand philosophy a bit more, since philosophy is confusing if you easily get lost with philosophical ideas that can just throw you off. However, if you like reading the works of famous philosophers you should not pass this book up.

I am currently reading this book for a course. It is easy to read and understand. I also like it because I purchased it on my kindle fire. No waiting. I received the book as soon as I paid for it.

Doesn't even attempt to decipher A's complex, intertwined assertions to get to the core of what he is

saying. Nor do most other Aristotle studies, unfortunately. I'm still looking.

I used this book for an intro to philosophy course, but the readings were so good that I had to hold onto it for my own personal library.

This is an excellent product and its everything I was expecting it to be. I am happy with the product and serviced, I have received.

This book was in great condition for my ethics course. All of the pages were intact and full of excellent insight.

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