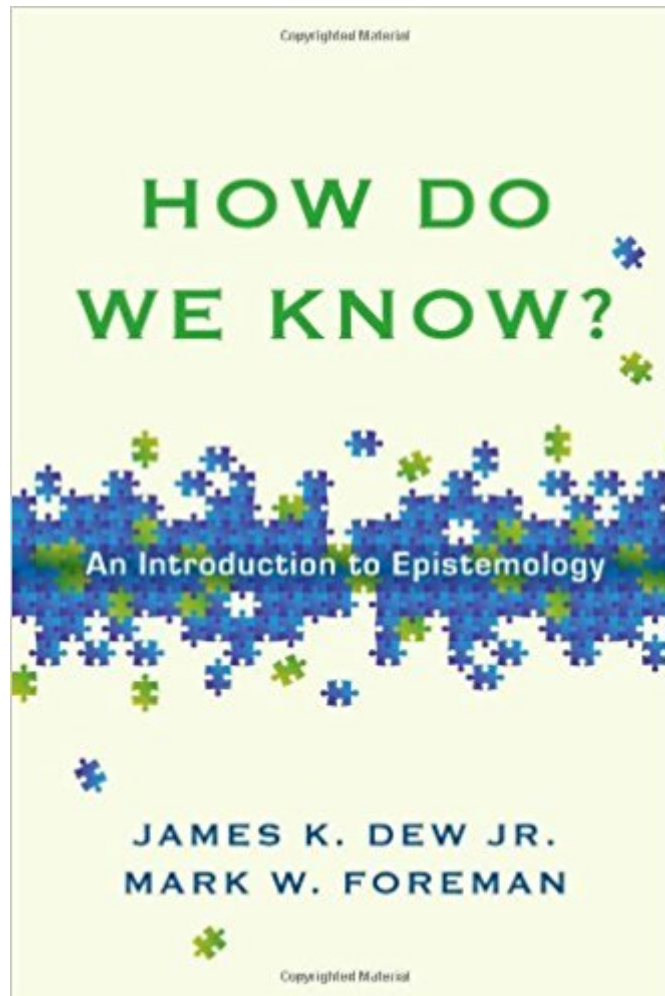




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How Do We Know?: An Introduction To Epistemology



Synopsis

What does it mean to know something? Can we have confidence in our knowledge? Epistemology, the study of knowledge, can often seem like a daunting subject. And yet few topics are more basic to human life. We are inquisitive creatures by nature, and the unending quest for truth leads us to raise difficult questions about the quest itself. What are the conditions, sources and limits of our knowledge? Do our beliefs need to be rationally justified? Can we have certainty? In this primer on epistemology, James Dew and Mark Foreman guide students through this discipline in philosophy. By asking basic questions and using clear, jargon-free language, they provide an entry into some of the most important issues in contemporary philosophy.

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Customer Reviews

"How Do We Know? by James Dew Jr. and Mark Foreman is a theologically informed introductory guide to epistemology. Ideal for freshman-level courses or serious laypeople, it uses simple language to make the complex understandable." (CBA Retailers + Resources, April 2014)"Dew and Foreman's How Do We Know? is a remarkably clear and concise discussion of central issues in epistemology. They explain difficult concepts as simply as possible without compromising accuracy, and they provide helpful illustrations throughout to ensure that readers will not get bogged down in the thicket of technical terminology. Epistemology is a field that can be as forbidding as it is important, and Dew and Foreman have done a wonderful service by giving us such an accessible treatment of the subject. Christian readers will find the book especially useful, as it includes discussions of faith, divine revelation and other issues related to religious epistemology. Another

virtue of the book is the authors' discussion of many major figures in the history of philosophy as well as significant contemporary epistemologists. I highly recommend this text to anyone interested in epistemology as well as students of theology and philosophy of religion." (James S. Spiegel, Taylor University)"Dew and Foreman have presented the reader with a very helpful introduction to a field with potential land mines. They have walked the epistemological field for the student, picked up jewels buried next to them, and presented them in a work that should be considered an excellent resource for college courses. How we come to have knowledge is too important to be left in obscurity. Bravo to the authors for clearing it up." (Bryan Baise, Criswell Theological Review, Spring 2015)

James K. Dew Jr. (PhD, Southeastern Baptist) is associate professor of the history of ideas and philosophy and dean of the College at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the coauthor (with Mark W. Foreman) of *How Do We Know? An Introduction to Epistemology* and coeditor (with Chad Meister) of *God and Evil: The Case for God in a World Filled with Pain*. Mark W. Foreman (Ph.D., religious studies, University of Virginia) is professor of philosophy and religion at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is also the author of *Christianity and Bioethics: Confronting Clinical Issues*.

I was just about to give up on epistemology but decided to give it one more try. This is my third book on the subject and I must admit I should have read this first. The clarity with which the authors tackle this very difficult subject is both refreshing and necessary. As one who is attempting to navigate the challenging deep waters of philosophy, I knew that I needed to have some proficiency around this foundational topic, yet as much as I tried it just wasn't gelling for me. Enter *How Do We Know?* From the opening pages I knew I would be in for more than just basic epistemology. From the differences between necessary and sufficient conditions to the classic Gettier problem, Dew and Foreman guide the reader with the utmost clarity without sacrificing rigor. In a sense this book is almost like a mini crash course in Philosophy 101. Highly recommended!

Good overview of epistemology. Because of its brevity, it's difficult to explain any particular theory in detail, but the authors provide a good summary of other schools of thought and provide conceptual questions at the end of each chapter to allow the reader to check their understanding. They provide an honest view for the rationale in believing there is a God and also clarify that they do not accept all reasonings for believing. This book is a great primer for the subject. If you are interested in the

field and considering various points of view, after finishing this book try Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology and make your own evaluations who is more convincing. Unfortunately, a lot of the more well known authors on this subject left behind works that are very dense and difficult to understand, but if you're interested, there are many others who have shared their thoughts on this fundamental subject.

A great primer for the Christian. Do you want to begin your journey into understanding our basis for knowledge and support for the Christian perspective? Then look no further. Don't have a Ph.D. in philosophy? Don't worry as one isn't needed. The others walk you through a basic discussion of knowledge and some of the leading philosophical positions, but yet do it in a down-to-earth style that is accessible to the laymen.

This book is an excellent introduction to the difficult subject of epistemology. The authors identify the major issues and provide clear examples. While the book is written from a Christian perspective, much of the material in the early chapters does not involve religious beliefs, and would be beneficial to anyone seeking to strengthen his or her critical thinking skills. As a skeptic, my only disagreements with the authors arise from the chapters that deal specifically with the Christian revelation. Well done.

This book was written for people with no prior knowledge of epistemology. The authors are professors at two different Evangelical universities. The chapters are good except the one on revelation as a source of knowledge. This chapter will appeal primarily to Evangelicals..

A great introduction to the often confusing subject of epistemology. Well written and easy to read!

Required for college assignments. Contents are balanced and full of insight.

great

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