



The Great Conversation: Volume I: Pre-Socratics through Descartes

Norman Melchert

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Ideal for courses in ancient philosophy or ancient and medieval philosophy, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy, Volume I: Pre-Socratics through Descartes*, Seventh Edition, covers the same material as the first half (chapters 1-13) of author Norman Melchert's longer volume, *The Great Conversation*. Tracing the exchange of ideas between history's key philosophers, it demonstrates that while constructing an argument or making a claim, one philosopher almost always has others in mind. It addresses the fundamental questions of human life: Who are we? What can we know? How should we live? and What sort of reality do we inhabit?

Author Norman Melchert provides a generous selection of excerpts from major philosophical works and makes them more easily understandable to students with his lucid and engaging explanations. Extensive cross-referencing shows students how philosophers respond appreciatively or critically to the thoughts of other philosophers. The text is enhanced by two types of exercises--"Basic Questions" and "For Further Thought"--and numerous illustrations.

Also available to suit your course needs: The seventh editions of *The Great Conversation: Volume II: Descartes through Derrida and Quine* and the entire book, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, which begins with the Pre-Socratics and ends with David Chalmers

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