

mit press textbooks

mit press textbooks are a significant resource for scholars, educators, and students alike, providing high-quality academic content across various disciplines. The MIT Press has established a reputation for publishing innovative and influential works that push the boundaries of knowledge and understanding. This article delves into the diverse offerings of MIT Press textbooks, exploring their impact on education, the subjects they cover, and the benefits they provide to learners. Moreover, we will discuss how these textbooks are tailored to meet the needs of a modern academic environment, including their digital formats and supplementary resources.

The following sections will guide you through the key aspects of MIT Press textbooks, from their history and reputation to their specific subject areas and how to effectively utilize them in your studies.

- Introduction
- History and Reputation of MIT Press
- Subject Areas Covered by MIT Press Textbooks
- Digital Formats and Accessibility
- Utilizing MIT Press Textbooks Effectively
- Conclusion

History and Reputation of MIT Press

The MIT Press was founded in 1962 as an extension of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, aiming to advance knowledge through the publication of scholarly materials. Over the decades, it has become one of the leading academic publishers globally, recognized for its commitment to quality and innovation. MIT Press textbooks are particularly celebrated for their rigor and relevance, serving as essential resources for a wide range of academic disciplines.

One of the hallmarks of MIT Press is its focus on interdisciplinary studies. The press has published groundbreaking works that have influenced not only academia but also industries and public policy. The reputation of MIT Press textbooks is bolstered by their contributions to essential fields including economics, computer science, engineering, and the humanities. Scholars and educators value these textbooks for their depth of research and their ability

to present complex ideas in accessible formats.

Subject Areas Covered by MIT Press Textbooks

MIT Press textbooks cover an expansive range of subjects, reflecting the diverse interests of the academic community. Some of the prominent subject areas include:

- Science and Technology
- Engineering
- Economics
- Architecture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

Science and Technology

The science and technology textbooks published by MIT Press are well-regarded for their comprehensiveness and clarity. These texts often serve as foundational resources for undergraduate and graduate students. Topics such as biology, physics, and environmental science are extensively covered, providing students with critical insights into contemporary scientific research and methodologies.

Engineering

Engineering textbooks from MIT Press are designed not only to teach theoretical concepts but also to apply these concepts in practical situations. These books often include case studies, problem sets, and projects that encourage hands-on learning. Areas such as electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and civil engineering are prominent, reflecting the pressing challenges and innovations in these fields.

Economics

MIT Press has a strong catalog of economics textbooks that address both micro and macroeconomic theories. These texts are distinguished by their analytical approaches and real-world applications, making them essential for students pursuing careers in economics, finance, and public policy. The incorporation of data analysis and empirical research helps students grasp complex economic models and their implications.

Humanities and Social Sciences

In the humanities and social sciences, MIT Press textbooks explore diverse topics, from philosophy and history to sociology and cultural studies. These books often challenge conventional perspectives and encourage critical thinking. They are instrumental for students aiming to understand the complexities of human behavior, culture, and societal structures.

Digital Formats and Accessibility

In recent years, MIT Press has embraced digital formats to enhance accessibility and convenience for students and educators. Many textbooks are available in eBook formats, allowing users to access content on various devices, including tablets, smartphones, and computers. This shift not only caters to the preferences of the digital generation but also ensures that students can study from anywhere.

Additionally, many MIT Press textbooks come with supplementary online resources, such as problem sets, interactive simulations, and video lectures. These resources are designed to complement the textbooks and provide students with a more engaging learning experience. The integration of technology in education is a crucial aspect of modern learning environments, and MIT Press is at the forefront of this trend.

Utilizing MIT Press Textbooks Effectively

To maximize the benefits of MIT Press textbooks, students should adopt effective study strategies tailored to the content and structure of these texts. Here are some recommended approaches:

- **Engage with Supplementary Materials:** Take advantage of any additional resources provided, such as online lectures and exercises.

- **Utilize Study Groups:** Collaborate with peers to discuss and explore complex topics, enhancing understanding through shared insights.
- **Practice Active Reading:** Annotate texts, highlight key concepts, and summarize chapters to reinforce learning.
- **Apply Concepts:** Whenever possible, relate the material to real-world scenarios or case studies to deepen comprehension.
- **Seek Feedback:** Utilize professors or teaching assistants to clarify difficult concepts and receive guidance on assignments.

By employing these strategies, students can enhance their learning experience and fully leverage the wealth of knowledge contained within MIT Press textbooks.

Conclusion

MIT Press textbooks represent a cornerstone of academic literature, providing valuable resources across a wide range of disciplines. Their commitment to quality, interdisciplinary focus, and adaptability to digital formats make them indispensable tools for students and educators alike. As the landscape of education continues to evolve, these textbooks will undoubtedly remain influential, shaping the minds and careers of future generations. With a robust catalog and a commitment to innovation, MIT Press will continue to play a vital role in the dissemination of knowledge and the advancement of scholarship.

Q: What types of subjects do MIT Press textbooks cover?

A: MIT Press textbooks cover a wide range of subjects including science and technology, engineering, economics, architecture, artificial intelligence, social sciences, and the humanities.

Q: Are MIT Press textbooks available in digital formats?

A: Yes, many MIT Press textbooks are available in digital formats such as eBooks, allowing for greater accessibility and convenience for users.

Q: How do MIT Press textbooks support interdisciplinary studies?

A: MIT Press textbooks often integrate content from multiple disciplines, encouraging students to explore connections between fields and develop a more holistic understanding of complex topics.

Q: What resources accompany MIT Press textbooks?

A: Many MIT Press textbooks are supplemented with online resources such as problem sets, interactive simulations, and video lectures to enhance the learning experience.

Q: How can students effectively utilize MIT Press textbooks?

A: Students can effectively utilize MIT Press textbooks by engaging with supplementary materials, collaborating in study groups, practicing active reading, applying concepts to real-world scenarios, and seeking feedback from instructors.

Q: What is the historical significance of the MIT Press?

A: The MIT Press, founded in 1962, has gained a reputation for advancing knowledge through the publication of scholarly materials, significantly influencing academia, industries, and public policy over the decades.

Q: Can MIT Press textbooks be used for self-study?

A: Yes, MIT Press textbooks are suitable for self-study, as they provide comprehensive content and often include exercises and resources designed to enhance independent learning.

Q: Do MIT Press textbooks include practical applications for their theoretical concepts?

A: Yes, many MIT Press textbooks are designed to include practical applications through case studies, problem sets, and project-based learning to help students apply theoretical concepts in real-world contexts.

Q: Are MIT Press textbooks widely adopted in

universities?

A: Yes, MIT Press textbooks are widely adopted in universities and colleges due to their rigorous academic standards, quality of content, and relevance to current research and industry practices.

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mit press textbooks: Data Science John D. Kelleher, Brendan Tierney, 2018-04-13 A concise introduction to the emerging field of data science, explaining its evolution, relation to machine learning, current uses, data infrastructure issues, and ethical challenges. The goal of data science is to improve decision making through the analysis of data. Today data science determines the ads we see online, the books and movies that are recommended to us online, which emails are filtered into our spam folders, and even how much we pay for health insurance. This volume in the MIT Press Essential Knowledge series offers a concise introduction to the emerging field of data science, explaining its evolution, current uses, data infrastructure issues, and ethical challenges. It has never been easier for organizations to gather, store, and process data. Use of data science is driven by the rise of big data and social media, the development of high-performance computing, and the emergence of such powerful methods for data analysis and modeling as deep learning. Data science encompasses a set of principles, problem definitions, algorithms, and processes for extracting non-obvious and useful patterns from large datasets. It is closely related to the fields of data mining and machine learning, but broader in scope. This book offers a brief history of the field, introduces fundamental data concepts, and describes the stages in a data science project. It considers data infrastructure and the challenges posed by integrating data from multiple sources, introduces the basics of machine learning, and discusses how to link machine learning expertise with real-world problems. The book also reviews ethical and legal issues, developments in data regulation, and computational approaches to preserving privacy. Finally, it considers the future impact of data science and offers principles for success in data science projects.

mit press textbooks: How to Publish Academic Books: A Guide to Publishing Monographs, Edited Volumes, Textbooks, and Theses Nitin Liladhar Rane, Saurabh Choudhary, Jayesh Rane, 2024-12-05 The academic book publishing sector has a key function when it comes to knowledge production and dissemination across various disciplines. For researchers, scholars, and educators, the process of moving from concept to publication is rarely a trivial task, and often involves the use of imagination, perseverance, and teamwork. Publishing a monograph, an edited volume or a textbook, or turning your thesis into a book can be painful. This book will help you demystify the world of academic book publishing, offering authors a guide to navigating the complicated process with success. This guide aims to provide authors with the knowledge of tools and resources needed to publish a book that reflects their research. If you want a sneak peek into the workings of scholarly publishing, it features advice from senior authors, publishers and academics with an intimate familiarity with the academic publishing process. Divided into chapters, the book covers the major elements of the publishing journey: steps to writing the proposal, advice on working with publishers, and challenges of the current moment, like open access and new fields of study. The first step to

getting published is learning to write a scholarly manuscript or book proposal. Writers need to know how to present their research in front of potential publishers. It necessitates, then, not just a firm grasp on the work in question but a facility for conveying the relevance of the work and its potential to make a difference. Therefore, it is very important to tread carefully through the relationship with the publishers, as the success of publishing partnerships relies heavily on trust, collaboration, and shared vision for the book. Open access publishing for scientific journals has played an increasingly important role in the ever-evolving academic world. There are new ways for authors to disseminate their work and increase the accessibility of research through open access. It is an exciting time to be an author, but it is also a challenging time in terms of financial viability and finding new publishing models. This section deeply studies the influence of open access so that authors can better develop books around it. Many students work years on their theses, and getting them published can greatly aid their academic careers. It is not simply editing; this means changing the format to suit for wider academic publication and conforming to the expectations of the publisher. This book is a road map for authors making this transition. For authors in emerging or interdisciplinary fields, publishing can bring unique challenges. There may not be established publishing pathways in these fields, or the intended audience may be smaller and more specialized. Despite these challenges, there are great rewards to publishing in such fields, and this book outlines strategies to achieve their success. Authors will discover how to seek the ideal publisher, determine their target market, and how to frame their work to have a noteworthy effect in their area. Technological advancements, global trends, and academic expectations have all combined to shape the future of academic book publishing. By the end of this book, readers will be equipped with a fundamental understanding of the academic publishing process. From preparing manuscripts and working with publishers to navigating new models of publishing, this guide arms authors with practical advice and strategies to ensure their research becomes a published book. It is our goal that this book helps those who hope to disseminate their research through publication of scholarly books.

mit press textbooks: *The Mind-Body Problem* Jonathan Westphal, 2016-09-23 An introduction to the mind-body problem, covering all the proposed solutions and offering a powerful new one. Philosophers from Descartes to Kripke have struggled with the glittering prize of modern and contemporary philosophy: the mind-body problem. The brain is physical. If the mind is physical, we cannot see how. If we cannot see how the mind is physical, we cannot see how it can interact with the body. And if the mind is not physical, it cannot interact with the body. Or so it seems. In this book the philosopher Jonathan Westphal examines the mind-body problem in detail, laying out the reasoning behind the solutions that have been offered in the past and presenting his own proposal. The sharp focus on the mind-body problem, a problem that is not about the self, or consciousness, or the soul, or anything other than the mind and the body, helps clarify both problem and solutions. Westphal outlines the history of the mind-body problem, beginning with Descartes. He describes mind-body dualism, which claims that the mind and the body are two different and separate things, nonphysical and physical, and he also examines physicalist theories of mind; antimaterialism, which proposes limits to physicalism and introduces the idea of qualia; and scientific theories of consciousness. Finally, Westphal examines the largely forgotten neutral monist theories of mind and body, held by Ernst Mach, William James, and Bertrand Russell, which attempt neither to extract mind from matter nor to dissolve matter into mind. Westphal proposes his own version of neutral monism. This version is unique among neutral monist theories in offering an account of mind-body interaction.

mit press textbooks: [Open Access](#) Peter Suber, 2012-07-20 A concise introduction to the basics of open access, describing what it is (and isn't) and showing that it is easy, fast, inexpensive, legal, and beneficial. The Internet lets us share perfect copies of our work with a worldwide audience at virtually no cost. We take advantage of this revolutionary opportunity when we make our work "open access": digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. Open access is made possible by the Internet and copyright-holder consent, and many authors, musicians, filmmakers, and other creators who depend on royalties are understandably unwilling to give their

consent. But for 350 years, scholars have written peer-reviewed journal articles for impact, not for money, and are free to consent to open access without losing revenue. In this concise introduction, Peter Suber tells us what open access is and isn't, how it benefits authors and readers of research, how we pay for it, how it avoids copyright problems, how it has moved from the periphery to the mainstream, and what its future may hold. Distilling a decade of Suber's influential writing and thinking about open access, this is the indispensable book on the subject for researchers, librarians, administrators, funders, publishers, and policy makers.

mit press textbooks: The Fourth Dimension and Non-Euclidean Geometry in Modern Art, revised edition Linda Dalrymple Henderson, 2018-05-18 The long-awaited new edition of a groundbreaking work on the impact of alternative concepts of space on modern art. In this groundbreaking study, first published in 1983 and unavailable for over a decade, Linda Dalrymple Henderson demonstrates that two concepts of space beyond immediate perception—the curved spaces of non-Euclidean geometry and, most important, a higher, fourth dimension of space—were central to the development of modern art. The possibility of a spatial fourth dimension suggested that our world might be merely a shadow or section of a higher dimensional existence. That iconoclastic idea encouraged radical innovation by a variety of early twentieth-century artists, ranging from French Cubists, Italian Futurists, and Marcel Duchamp, to Max Weber, Kazimir Malevich, and the artists of De Stijl and Surrealism. In an extensive new Reintroduction, Henderson surveys the impact of interest in higher dimensions of space in art and culture from the 1950s to 2000. Although largely eclipsed by relativity theory beginning in the 1920s, the spatial fourth dimension experienced a resurgence during the later 1950s and 1960s. In a remarkable turn of events, it has returned as an important theme in contemporary culture in the wake of the emergence in the 1980s of both string theory in physics (with its ten- or eleven-dimensional universes) and computer graphics. Henderson demonstrates the importance of this new conception of space for figures ranging from Buckminster Fuller, Robert Smithson, and the Park Place Gallery group in the 1960s to Tony Robbin and digital architect Marcos Novak.

mit press textbooks: Algorithms Panos Louridas, 2020-08-18 In the tradition of Real World Algorithms: A Beginner's Guide, Panos Louridas is back to introduce algorithms in an accessible manner, utilizing various examples to explain not just what algorithms are but how they work. Digital technology runs on algorithms, sets of instructions that describe how to do something efficiently. Application areas range from search engines to tournament scheduling, DNA sequencing, and machine learning. Arguing that every educated person today needs to have some understanding of algorithms and what they do, in this volume in the MIT Press Essential Knowledge series, Panos Louridas offers an introduction to algorithms that is accessible to the nonspecialist reader. Louridas explains not just what algorithms are but also how they work, offering a wide range of examples and keeping mathematics to a minimum.

mit press textbooks: The Copyright Book William S. Strong, 2014-05-30 This edition has been thoroughly updated to cover copyright developments in the law since 2000. There is expanded coverage of infringement and fair use, with detailed discussion of recent decisions, including the Grateful Dead, Google, and HathiTrust cases. It considers such topics as open access, the defeat of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), file sharing, e-reserves, the status of orphan works, and the latest developments under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). It also modernizes explanations of topics such as authorship and ownership; transfers and licenses of copyright; copyright notice; registration of copyright (including the new online registration and preregistration systems); the scope of rights included in copyright, and exceptions to those rights; moral rights; compulsory licenses; tax treatment of copyright; and international aspects of copyright law.

mit press textbooks: The Copyright Book, sixth edition William S. Strong, 2014-05-30 An accessible and comprehensive guide to copyright law, updated to include new developments in infringement, fair use, and the impact of digital technology. Through five editions since 1981, this book has offered the most comprehensive accessible guide available to all aspects of copyright law. Now, with the sixth edition, The Copyright Book has been thoroughly updated to cover copyright for

the Internet age, discussing a range of developments in the law since 2000. The only book written for nonlawyers that covers the entire field of copyright law, it is essential reading for authors, artists, creative people in every medium, the companies that hire them, users of copyrighted material, and anyone with an interest in copyright law from a policy perspective. New material includes greatly expanded coverage of infringement and fair use, with detailed discussion of recent decisions, including the Grateful Dead, Google, and HathiTrust cases. The new edition considers such topics as open access, the defeat of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), file sharing, e-reserves, the status of "orphan works," and the latest developments under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). The sixth edition also brings up to date The Copyright Book's plain English explanation of such fundamental topics as authorship and ownership; transfers and licenses of copyright; copyright notice; registration of copyright (including the new online registration and "preregistration" systems); the scope of rights included in copyright, and exceptions to those rights; "moral rights"; compulsory licenses; tax treatment of copyright; and international aspects of copyright law. As copyright issues grow ever more complicated, The Copyright Book becomes ever more indispensable.

mit press textbooks: *Art School* Steven Henry Madoff, 2009-09-11 Leading international artists and art educators consider the challenges of art education in today's dramatically changed art world. The last explosive change in art education came nearly a century ago, when the German Bauhaus was formed. Today, dramatic changes in the art world—its increasing professionalization, the pervasive power of the art market, and fundamental shifts in art-making itself in our post-Duchampian era—combined with a revolution in information technology, raise fundamental questions about the education of today's artists. *Art School (Propositions for the 21st Century)* brings together more than thirty leading international artists and art educators to reconsider the practices of art education in academic, practical, ethical, and philosophical terms. The essays in the book range over continents, histories, traditions, experiments, and fantasies of education. Accompanying the essays are conversations with such prominent artist/educators as John Baldessari, Michael Craig-Martin, Hans Haacke, and Marina Abramovic, as well as questionnaire responses from a dozen important artists—among them Mike Kelley, Ann Hamilton, Guillermo Kuitca, and Shirin Neshat—about their own experiences as students. A fascinating analysis of the architecture of major historical art schools throughout the world looks at the relationship of the principles of their designs to the principles of the pedagogy practiced within their halls. And throughout the volume, attention is paid to new initiatives and proposals about what an art school can and should be in the twenty-first century—and what it shouldn't be. No other book on the subject covers more of the questions concerning art education today or offers more insight into the pressures, challenges, risks, and opportunities for artists and art educators in the years ahead. Contributors Marina Abramovic, Dennis Adams, John Baldessari, Ute Meta Bauer, Daniel Birnbaum, Saskia Bos, Tania Bruguera, Luis Camnitzer, Michael Craig-Martin, Thierry de Duve, Clémentine Deliss, Charles Esche, Liam Gillick, Boris Groys, Hans Haacke, Ann Lauterbach, Ken Lum, Steven Henry Madoff, Brendan D. Moran, Ernesto Pujol, Raqs Media Collective, Charles Renfro, Jeffrey T. Schnapp, Michael Shanks, Robert Storr, Anton Vidokle

mit press textbooks: [Free Will as an Open Scientific Problem](#) Mark Balaguer, 2012-01-13 An argument that the problem of free will boils down to an open scientific question about the causal histories of certain kinds of neural events. In this largely antimetaphysical treatment of free will and determinism, Mark Balaguer argues that the philosophical problem of free will boils down to an open scientific question about the causal histories of certain kinds of neural events. In the course of his argument, Balaguer provides a naturalistic defense of the libertarian view of free will. The metaphysical component of the problem of free will, Balaguer argues, essentially boils down to the question of whether humans possess libertarian free will. Furthermore, he argues that, contrary to the traditional wisdom, the libertarian question reduces to a question about indeterminacy—in particular, to a straightforward empirical question about whether certain neural events in our heads are causally undetermined in a certain specific way; in other words, Balaguer argues that the right

kind of indeterminacy would bring with it all of the other requirements for libertarian free will. Finally, he argues that because there is no good evidence as to whether or not the relevant neural events are undetermined in the way that's required, the question of whether human beings possess libertarian free will is a wide-open empirical question.

mit press textbooks: Critical Laboratory Thomas Hirschhorn, 2013-07-19 Writings by Thomas Hirschhorn, collected for the first time, trace the development of the artist's ideas and artistic strategies. For the artist Thomas Hirschhorn, writing is a crucial tool at every stage of his artistic practice. From the first sketch of an idea to appeals to potential collaborators, from detailed documentation of projects to post-disassembly analysis, Hirschhorn's writings mark the trajectories of his work. This volume collects Hirschhorn's widely scattered texts, presenting many in English for the first time. In these writings, Hirschhorn discusses the full range of his art, from works on paper to the massive Presence and Production projects in public spaces. "Statements and Letters" address broad themes of aesthetic philosophy, politics, and art historical commitments. "Projects" consider specific artworks or exhibitions. "Interviews" capture the artist in dialogue with Benjamin Buchloh, Jacques Rancière, and others. Throughout, certain continuities emerge: Hirschhorn's commitment to quotidian materials; the centrality of political and economic thinking in his work; and his commitment to art in the public sphere. Taken together, the texts serve to trace the artist's ideas and artistic strategies over the past two decades. Critical Laboratory also reproduces, in color, 33 Ausstellungen im öffentlichen Raum 1998-1989, an out-of-print catalog of Hirschhorn's earliest works in public space.

mit press textbooks: Evolution in Four Dimensions, revised edition Eva Jablonka, Marion J. Lamb, 2014-03-21 A pioneering proposal for a pluralistic extension of evolutionary theory, now updated to reflect the most recent research. This new edition of the widely read Evolution in Four Dimensions has been revised to reflect the spate of new discoveries in biology since the book was first published in 2005, offering corrections, an updated bibliography, and a substantial new chapter. Eva Jablonka and Marion Lamb's pioneering argument proposes that there is more to heredity than genes. They describe four "dimensions" in heredity—four inheritance systems that play a role in evolution: genetic, epigenetic (or non-DNA cellular transmission of traits), behavioral, and symbolic (transmission through language and other forms of symbolic communication). These systems, they argue, can all provide variations on which natural selection can act. Jablonka and Lamb present a richer, more complex view of evolution than that offered by the gene-based Modern Synthesis, arguing that induced and acquired changes also play a role. Their lucid and accessible text is accompanied by artist-physician Anna Zeligowski's lively drawings, which humorously and effectively illustrate the authors' points. Each chapter ends with a dialogue in which the authors refine their arguments against the vigorous skepticism of the fictional "I.M." (for Ipcha Mistabra—Aramaic for "the opposite conjecture"). The extensive new chapter, presented engagingly as a dialogue with I.M., updates the information on each of the four dimensions—with special attention to the epigenetic, where there has been an explosion of new research. Praise for the first edition "With courage and verve, and in a style accessible to general readers, Jablonka and Lamb lay out some of the exciting new pathways of Darwinian evolution that have been uncovered by contemporary research." —Evelyn Fox Keller, MIT, author of Making Sense of Life: Explaining Biological Development with Models, Metaphors, and Machines "In their beautifully written and impressively argued new book, Jablonka and Lamb show that the evidence from more than fifty years of molecular, behavioral and linguistic studies forces us to reevaluate our inherited understanding of evolution." —Oren Harman, The New Republic "It is not only an enjoyable read, replete with ideas and facts of interest but it does the most valuable thing a book can do—it makes you think and reexamine your premises and long-held conclusions." —Adam Wilkins, BioEssays

mit press textbooks: I Am a Monument Aron Vinegar, 2008 Learning from Las Vegas, originally published by the MIT Press in 1972, was one of the most influential and controversial architectural books of its era. Thirty-five years later, it remains a perennial bestseller and a definitive theoretical text. Its authors—architects Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, and Steven

Izenour famously used the Las Vegas Strip to argue the virtues of the ordinary and ugly above the heroic and original qualities of architectural modernism. Learning from Las Vegas not only moved architecture to the center of cultural debates, it changed our ideas about what architecture was and could be. In this provocative rereading of an iconic text, Aron Vinegar argues that Learning from Las Vegas is not only of historical interest but of absolute relevance to current critical debates in architectural and visual culture. Vinegar argues that to read Learning from Las Vegas only as an exemplary postmodernist text—to understand it, for example, as a call for pastiche or as ironic provocation—is to underestimate its deeper critical and ethical meaning, and to miss the underlying dialectic between skepticism and the ordinary, expression and the deadpan, that runs through the text. Vinegar's close attention to the graphic design of Learning from Las Vegas, and his fresh interpretations of now canonical images from the book such as the Duck, the Decorated Shed, and the recommendation for a monument, make his book unique. Perhaps most revealing is his close analysis of the differences between the first 1972 edition, designed for the MIT Press by Muriel Cooper, and the revised edition of 1977, which was radically stripped down and largely redesigned by Denise Scott Brown. The dialogue between the two editions continues with this book, where for the first time the two versions of Learning from Las Vegas are read comparatively.--Publisher's website.

mit press textbooks: *True to Life* Michael P. Lynch, 2005-08-05 Why truth is important in our everyday lives. Why does truth matter when politicians so easily sidestep it and intellectuals scorn it as irrelevant? Why be concerned over an abstract idea like truth when something that isn't true—for example, a report of Iraq's attempting to buy materials for nuclear weapons—gets the desired result: the invasion of Iraq? In this engaging and spirited book, Michael Lynch argues that truth does matter, in both our personal and political lives. Lynch explains that the growing cynicism over truth stems in large part from our confusion over what truth is. We need to think our way past our confusion and shed our cynicism about the value of truth, he writes. Otherwise, we will be unable to act with integrity, to live authentically, and to speak truth to power. True to Life defends four simple claims: that truth is objective; that it is good to believe what is true; that truth is a goal worthy of inquiry; and that truth can be worth caring about for its own sake, not just because it gets us other things we want. In defense of these truisms about truth, Lynch diagnoses the sources of our cynicism and argues that many contemporary theories of truth cannot adequately account for its value. He explains why we should care about truth, arguing that truth and its pursuit are part of living a happy life, important in our personal relationships and for our political values.

mit press textbooks: *Beyond Choices* Miguel Sicart, 2013-09-06 How computer games can be designed to create ethically relevant experiences for players. Today's blockbuster video games—and their never-ending sequels, sagas, and reboots—provide plenty of excitement in high-resolution but for the most part fail to engage a player's moral imagination. In *Beyond Choices*, Miguel Sicart calls for a new generation of video and computer games that are ethically relevant by design. In the 1970s, mainstream films—including *The Godfather*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Raging Bull*, and *Taxi Driver*—filled theaters but also treated their audiences as thinking beings. Why can't mainstream video games have the same moral and aesthetic impact? Sicart argues that it is time for games to claim their place in the cultural landscape as vehicles for ethical reflection. Sicart looks at games in many manifestations: toys, analog games, computer and video games, interactive fictions, commercial entertainments, and independent releases. Drawing on philosophy, design theory, literary studies, aesthetics, and interviews with game developers, Sicart provides a systematic account of how games can be designed to challenge and enrich our moral lives. After discussing such topics as definition of ethical gameplay and the structure of the game as a designed object, Sicart offers a theory of the design of ethical game play. He also analyzes the ethical aspects of game play in a number of current games, including *Spec Ops: The Line*, *Beautiful Escape*: *Dungeon*, *Fallout New Vegas*, and Anna Anthropy's *Dys4ia*. Games are designed to evoke specific emotions; games that engage players ethically, Sicart argues, enable us to explore and express our values through play.

mit press textbooks: Take Back the Center Peter S. Wenz, 2012-08-24 Reality-based arguments against right-wing fantasies: the case for reducing income inequality, rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in education, and putting people back to work. Midcentury America was governed from the center, a bipartisan consensus of politicians and public opinion that supported government spending on education, the construction of a vast network of interstate highways, healthcare for senior citizens, and environmental protection. These projects were paid for by a steeply progressive tax code, with a top tax rate at one point during the Republican Eisenhower administration of 91 percent. Today, a similar agenda of government action (and progressive taxation) would be portrayed as dangerously left wing. At the same time, radically anti-government and anti-tax opinions (with no evidence to support them) are considered part of the mainstream. In Take Back the Center, Peter Wenz makes the case for a sane, reality-based politics that reclaims the center for progressive policies. The key, he argues, is taxing the wealthy at higher rates. The tax rate for the wealthiest Americans has declined from the mid-twentieth-century high of 91 percent to a twenty-first-century low of 36 percent—even as social programs are gutted and the gap between rich and poor widens dramatically. Ever since Ronald Reagan famously declared that government was the problem and not the solution, conservatives have had an all-purpose answer to any question: smaller government and lower taxes. Wenz offers an impassioned counterargument. He explains the justice of raising the top tax rates significantly, making a case for less income inequality (and countering society's worship of the wealthy), and he offers suggestions for how to spend the increased tax revenues: K-12 education, tuition relief, transportation and energy infrastructure, and universal health care. Armed with Wenz's evidence-driven arguments, progressives can position themselves where they belong: in the mainstream of American politics and at the center of American political conversations, helping their country address a precipitous decline in equality and quality of life.

mit press textbooks: The Invention of Heterosexual Culture Louis-Georges Tin, 2012-08-17 The rise of heterosexual culture and the resistance it met from feudal lords, church fathers, and the medical profession. Heterosexuality is celebrated—in film and television, in pop songs and opera, in literature and on greeting cards—and at the same time taken for granted. It is the cultural and sexual norm by default. And yet, as Louis-Georges Tin shows in The Invention of Heterosexual Culture, in premodern Europe heterosexuality was perceived as an alternative culture. The practice of heterosexuality may have been standard, but the symbolic primacy of the heterosexual couple was not. Tin maps the emergence of heterosexual culture in Western Europe and the significant resistance to it from feudal lords, church fathers, and the medical profession. Tin writes that before the phenomenon of courtly love in the early twelfth century, the man-woman pairing had not been deemed a subject worthy of more than passing interest. As heterosexuality became a recurrent theme in art and literature, the nobility came to view it as a disruption of the feudal chivalric ethos of virility and male bonding. If feudal lords objected to the hetero in heterosexuality and what they saw as the associated dangers of weakness and effeminacy, the church took issue with the “sexuality,” which threatened the Christian ethos of renunciation and divine love. Finally, the medical profession cast heterosexuality as pathology, warning of an epidemic of “lovesickness.” Noting that the discourse of heterosexuality does not belong to heterosexuals alone, Tin offers a groundbreaking history that reasserts the cultural identity of heterosexuality.

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