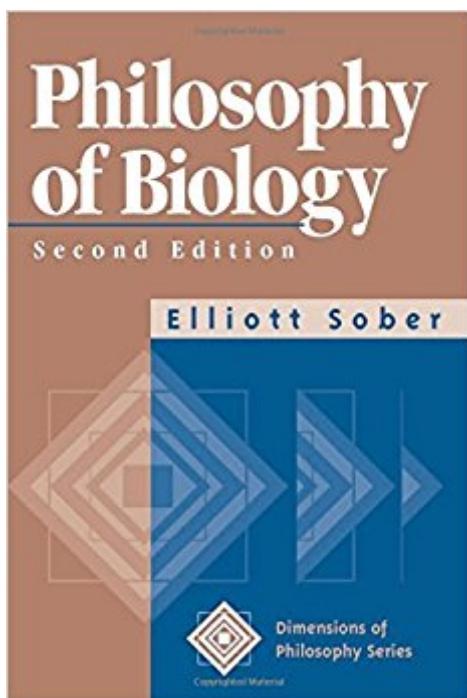


The book was found

# Philosophy Of Biology, 2nd Edition (Dimensions Of Philosophy)



## **Synopsis**

Perhaps because of its implications for our understanding of human nature, recent philosophy of biology has seen what might be the most dramatic work in the philosophies of the special sciences. This drama has centered on evolutionary theory, and in the second edition of this textbook, Elliott Sober introduces the reader to the most important issues of these developments. With a rare combination of technical sophistication and clarity of expression, Sober engages both the higher level of theory and the direct implications for such controversial issues as creationism, teleology, nature versus nurture, and sociobiology. Above all, the reader will gain from this book a firm grasp of the structure of evolutionary theory, the evidence for it, and the scope of its explanatory significance.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Westview Press; 2nd edition (January 12, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813391261

ISBN-13: 978-0813391267

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #233,820 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Creationism #1125 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Biology #1354 in Books > Science & Math > Evolution

## **Customer Reviews**

Dimensions of Philosophy is designed for the next generation of philosophers and their students. It will present some of our most distinguished philosophers interpreting the traditional issues of philosophy for the 1990s. --This text refers to the Print on Demand (Paperback) edition.

Elliott Sober is Hans Reichenbach Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He is editor of *Conceptual Issues in Evolutionary Biology: An Anthology* and author of *The Nature of Selection: Evolutionary Theory in Philosophical Focus*, as well as many papers on the philosophy of science and of biology. In 1991 he was awarded the Lakatos Award for an outstanding contribution to the philosophy of science for his book *Reconstructing the Past*:

## Parsimony, Evolution, and Interference.

This book should be a minimum standard required by all biology students.

I am using this text in a Philosophy of Biology course on Darwinism together with writings from several other sources including Ridly and Dawkins. It works well in such a situation. While not purely a Phil/Bio book, it does contain information that is pertinent. Also, it is written by a well-established and respected author who specializes in Philosophy of Biology. The book is easy to read and informative. It explores some off-hand topics such as the ability of science to prove adaptationism within evolution (maybe more Phil/Science?). Nevertheless, if used with other texts, I would recommend it.

In brief this was one of the best books I read in 1995. While the book is a splendid introduction to an exciting topic, it has numerous special insights and clarifying presentations. It keeps close to biology demonstrating some fascinating respects in which biology and its theorists raise special issues in the philosophy of science. The book would go well with one of the main philosophy of natural sciences textbooks.

I will not deny that Elliott Sober's work is illuminating and comprehensive. What concerns me is that his book is not one on the philosophy of biology. Rather, it is a work on the philosophy of evolutionary theory. Within its own scope it's fine, although potential buyers should note that there are much better introductions to the subject (see Mayr 1988, 1999 or 2004, Rosenberg 1985, and Sober's anthology: 'Conceptual Issues in Evolutionary Biology'). In addition, Sober's philosophical background makes his writing style unnecessarily complicated, often attempting to impress the reader making irrelevant comparisons and references. What is most unfortunate is his choice of title. This book does not in any way represent or exemplify the current concerns of the practicing biologist. Sober ignores most areas of biology as if they didn't exist, focusing solely on evolution. Books like this one really harm the discipline of philosophy of biology, as they make the public think that this exciting new discipline can be effectively reduced to the study of evolutionary theory. As a biologist myself, I doubt that more than 5% of all practicing biologists are engaged in traditional evolutionary studies. Since the 1960s, the emphasis has been on the molecular aspect of life, and the philosophy of biology should similarly attempt to address issues arising from molecular concepts and research. A few books have been written that emphasise the molecular and experimental

aspect that defines modern biology. See for example Weber's *Philosophy of Experimental Biology* (2005), or Sarkar's 'Molecular Models of Life'. For those looking for a general introduction to the philosophy of biology, I would recommend Sterelny and Griffiths' (1999) 'Sex and Death' since it successfully covers a very wide range of biological topics, not just evolution. Books like Sober's 'Philosophy of Biology' are misleading both in their content and in their approach to the subject.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Philosophy of Biology, 2nd Edition (Dimensions of Philosophy) Manifesto for Philosophy: Followed by Two Essays: "the (Re)Turn of Philosophy Itself" and "Definition of Philosophy" (Suny Series, Intersections, Philosophy and Critical Theory) Developmental Biology, Ninth Edition (Developmental Biology Developmental Biology) Evolution in Four Dimensions: Genetic, Epigenetic, Behavioral, and Symbolic Variation in the History of Life (Life and Mind: Philosophical Issues in Biology and Psychology) Young Scientists: Learning Basic Biology (Ages 9 and Up): Biology Books for Kids (Children's Biology Books) Physical Dimensions of Aging, 2nd Edition Biology Coloring Workbook, 2nd Edition: An Easier and Better Way to Learn Biology Molecular Driving Forces: Statistical Thermodynamics in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Nanoscience, 2nd Edition 2nd edition by Ken A. Dill, Sarina Bromberg (2010) Paperback Campbell Biology AP Ninth Edition (Biology, 9th Edition) Ritual: Perspectives and Dimensions--Revised Edition Dimensions of Long-Term Care Management: An Introduction, Second Edition CliffsNotes AP Biology, 5th Edition (Cliffs Ap Biology) Kaplan GRE Exam Subject Test: Biology 2009-2010 Edition (Kaplan Gre Biology) CliffsNotes AP Biology, Fourth Edition (Cliffs Ap Biology) Glencoe Biology, Student Edition (BIOLOGY DYNAMICS OF LIFE) Raven, Biology © 2014, 10e, AP Student Edition (AP BIOLOGY RAVEN) Castro, Marine Biology © 2010, 8e, Student Edition (Reinforced Binding) (A/P MARINE BIOLOGY) Glencoe Biology: The Dynamics of Life, Reinforcement and Study Guide, Student Edition (BIOLOGY DYNAMICS OF LIFE) Principles of Bone Biology, Third Edition (Bilezikian, Principles of Bone Biology 2 Vol Set) Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology Plus MasteringBiology with eText -- Access Card Package (5th Edition) (Simon et al., The Campbell Essential Biology Series)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)