Hermeneutics: A Very Short Introduction
Jens Zimmermann

Hermeneutics is the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation. As humans, we decipher the meaning of newspaper articles, books, legal matters, religious texts, political speeches, emails, and even dinner conversations every day of our lives. But how is knowledge mediated through these forms of communication and fields of study? What constitutes the process of interpretation? And how do we draw meaning from the world around us so that we might understand our position in it? Hermeneutics: A Very Short Introduction traces the history of hermeneutic theory, setting out its key elements, demonstrating how these key elements can be applied to a broad range of disciplines, and reveals the significance of hermeneutics in our current social and political landscape.

Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction
Jennifer Nagel

What is knowledge? How does it differ from mere belief? Do you need to be able to justify a claim in order to count as knowing it? Knowledge: A Very Short Introduction considers these epistemological questions alongside new puzzles arising from recent discoveries about humanity, language, and the mind. It explains the formation of major historical theories of knowledge, and shows how contemporary philosophers have developed new ways of understanding knowledge, using ideas from logic, linguistics, and psychology. Covering topics ranging from relativism and the problem of scepticism to the trustworthiness of internet sources, this VSI uses everyday examples to explain the key issues and debates.

Objectivity: A Very Short Introduction
Stephen Gaukroger

Objectivity: A Very Short Introduction
Objectivity: A Very Short Introduction explores the theoretical and practical problems of objectivity by assessing the basic questions raised by it. Is objectivity possible? Can there be objectivity in matters of morals, or tastes? Objectivity is both an essential and elusive philosophical concept. An account is considered to be objective if it attempts to capture the nature of the object studied without judgement of a conscious entity or subject. It is far from clear that we can resolve moral or aesthetic disputes in this way. Such an approach is not always appropriate for disciplines that deal with human, rather than natural, phenomena.

Reality: A Very Short Introduction
Jan Westerhoff

Reality: A Very Short Introduction discusses what reality is by looking at a variety of arguments, theories, and thought-experiments from philosophy, physics, and cognitive science. ‘What is real?’ is a key question of philosophy, one that has made its way into popular culture. It is asked by scientists investigating whether the fundamental constituents of matter are actually ‘out there’ or just an abstraction from a theory. Cognitive scientists ask it when trying to find out which set of the bewildering array of data processed by our brain could constitute the basis for such supposedly fundamental entities like the free agent or the self.

Thought: A Very Short Introduction
Tim Bayne

Thought: A Very Short Introduction looks at the nature of thought. Beginning with questions about what thought is and what distinguishes it from other kinds of mental states, it examines various interpretations of thought from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, and anthropology. There is no denying that thinking comes naturally to human beings. There are many things we know and don't know about thoughts. How is thought realized in the brain? Does thinking occur in public or is it a purely private affair? Do young children and non-human animals think? Is human thought the same everywhere, or are there culturally specific modes of thought? What is the relationship between thought and language? What kind of responsibility do we have for our thoughts?