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**A few words about understanding Schopenhauer**

Schopenhauer's thought is very interesting stuff (unfortunately you'll have to just trust me on that for the next week or so), but his world view is also a real challenge to get your brain around. Here are a few suggestions that might help:

1. Pay special attention to understanding what we're doing this week and next with epistemology. It will make a big difference in understanding him.

2. Go to a secondary source, i.e., someone who has written a chapter or article about Schopenhauer, for example, and see what they have to say about him. A few good chapters about his work can be found in the books on [this page](http://philosophycourse.info/businessite/libr-refs.html).

You can also check out the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](http://plato.stanford.edu/) and other online resources, linked from [our class homepage](http://philosophycourse.info/phi-homepg.html#anchor102324).

3. You will also be reading some mini-lectures about him starting this week.

4. It will be very important that you understand Immanuel Kant too, as well as Locke, Berkeley, and Hume, because they provide much of the foundation for Schopenhauer’s thought. So you're going to be struggling with these earlier Philosophers this week, as well as with Schopenhauer.

5. Read it twice. This is Schopenhauer's own suggestion, and (unfortunately) he's probably right that it would be a good idea. I don't expect that you will all have time for this, of course, at least not during this quarter. Maybe at some future point in your life.

6. You could also check out the [Schopenhauer homepage](http://philosophycourse.info/schopsite/schop-homepg.html) on our class website, and link to a couple of his other (much more readable) essays from there.

Good luck with this challenging and important book.