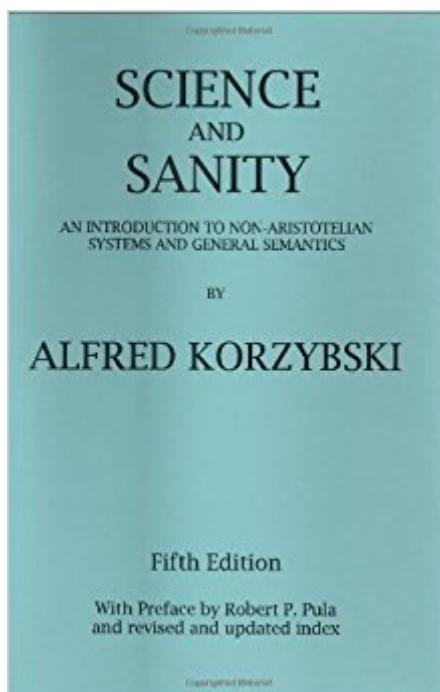


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# Science And Sanity: An Introduction To Non-Aristotelian Systems And General Semantics



## **Synopsis**

Selections from Science and Sanity represents Alfred Korzybski's authorized abridgement of his magnum opus, *Science and Sanity: An Introduction to Non-Aristotelian Systems and General Semantics*. This second edition, published in response to the recent Korzybski revival, adds new introductory material and a revised index, providing an accessible introduction to Korzybski's arguments concerning the need for a non-Aristotelian approach to knowledge, thought, perception, and language, to coincide with our non-Newtonian physics and non-Euclidean geometries, to Korzybski's practical philosophy, applied psychology, pragmatics of human communication, and educational program. *Selections from Science and Sanity* serves as an excellent introduction to general semantics as a system intended to aid the individual's adjustment to reality, enhance intellectual and creative activities, and alleviate the many social ills that have plagued humanity throughout our history.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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Korzybski's practical philosophy, applied psychology, pragmatics of human communication, and educational program. Selections from *Science and Sanity* serves as an excellent introduction to general semantics as a system intended to aid the individual's adjustment to reality, enhance intellectual and creative activities, and alleviate the many social ills that have plagued humanity throughout our history.

I study mathematics and its applications, particularly physical applications. I read a little theology. I have poor patience for most other reading material. Too much of it seems to be content-free. This book is unlikely anything I've seen before. It's just stunningly insightful. It is one of the very few books I've gotten which has content at a satisfying density. That is, the author doesn't go on and on without saying something important. It is possible to observe that the writing can be repetitive, but I think the repetition is good for me. It emphasizes portions of the learning that I have to have a chance to observe. Although titled "general semantics," a friend of mine correctly points out that this is really an epistemology. It is really a science of how we know and how we improve our cognitive functions. When he told me that this could revolutionize our schools and our outreach programs to people whose lives have gotten off track, I thought, "How could that be?" But, he was perfectly correct. It is the most powerful and most interesting book of practical philosophy I have ever found. In fact, it would be difficult for me to name another book of practical philosophy just now. This is stunning. I consider it universally useful reading.

A classic! One of the foundations of Neuro Linguistic Programming. Leads to very clear thinking. A heavy read.

This book is a classic, although I didn't find it possible to read it all, not by a long way. However it did help me to understand that there can be alternative ways of looking at the world.

This tome is amazing, everyone should read about general semantics as it is a key method for understanding things as they are and not how we want them to be.

One of the most important books of the century, that no one has heard of.

Not a fast read. Wish our politicians embraced it's tenets

Korzybski's book can best be described as an epistemological "War and Peace"....just more tedious. However after making the investment in this book some years back I felt like I was bound to find something of value...When you get done you feel like one of those old miners who spends years pulling out just enough gold to pay for the next days work. "Science and Sanity" is really a study in applied epistemology--how we know what we say we know given our human limits. As such Korzybski wanders over several fields of human knowledge but tries mostly to explain everything in terms of semantics of mathematics, science and psychology. The book, or books to be correct are nearly a 1000 pages and after reading it I know why it sat on my shelf for 5 years after it's initial purchase. It doesn't help that the preface is written even more poorly, if that is possible, than the rest of the book. After just reading the preface I felt that if I was going to have to pay this much for the book, and learn general semantics- speak, I felt like I ought to have least got the secret handshake and decoder ring. It doesn't help that the book starts with an ideological diatribe that to this day I still can't understand. You can also skip the last "book" which discusses calculus, lineratiy, Einstein's theroy etc. all in general ways that to be honest have only a touching connection to the epistemological arguments set forth earlier in the book. To be generous Korzybski's book drastically needs an editor. At best this would be a 200-300 page book if the author had known the semantics of clarity and conciseness. After a while you realize that you aren't reading a book but the unedited notes or gallies as the same points are wearily made again and again, ad nauseum. A few interesting ideas over explained doesn't justify the cost or time spent on this dry, chore of a book. I read S.I. Hayakawa's "Language In Action" and Bateson's "Mind and Nature" first and got the same points in less time and without the tedium of reading someone who writes because he likes what he has to say. Read these two books and if you feel like you've really committed some epistemological sin then read Korybski's mental marathon.

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