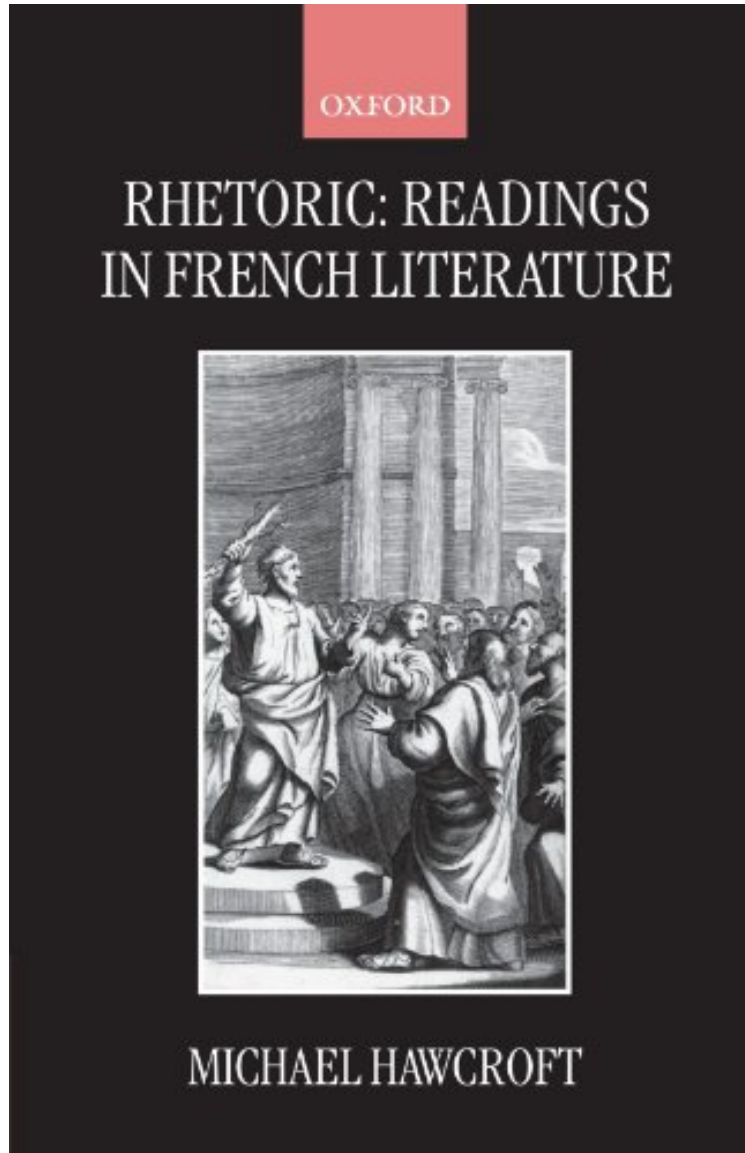


Rhetoric: Readings in French Literature

Michael Hawcroft

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Rhetoric is the art of persuasion, whether spoken or written. In the first chapter of Rhetoric: Readings in French Literature, Michael Hawcroft sets out its principles comprehensively and lucidly, providing an easily-consulted outline

of key terms and a wide range of illustrative examples. Subsequent chapters explore rhetoric at work in different genres, via close reading of texts which range from the drama of Molière, Racine, and Beckett; Montaigne, Stendhal, and Gide on the self; the prose fiction of Laclos, Zola, and Sarraute; poetry by D'Aubigné, Baudelaire, and Césaire; and the oratory of de Gaulle and Yourcenar. Rhetorical analysis uncovers subtleties and complexities in texts which emerge as exciting dramas of communication. This is at once a handbook of rhetoric and a guide to its application to French texts from the sixteenth century to the present.

Here is that welcome thing, a book which does exactly what it sets out to do...Jargon-free explanations, a helpful layout and well-chosen examples assist comprehension of the core material, while an outline of the chapter, provided separately, enhances its continuing usefulness as a reference section'Forum for Modern Language Studies, Volume 37, Number 3`thoroughly thought-through handbook ... Hawcroft thoughtfully provides memory-joggers, for he knows how fallible is our recall of technical terms. His dragnet of reference is impressively wide ... this is a very persuasive book'Walter Redfern, MLR, 96.2, 2001About the AuthorMichael Hawcroft is at Keble College, Oxford.