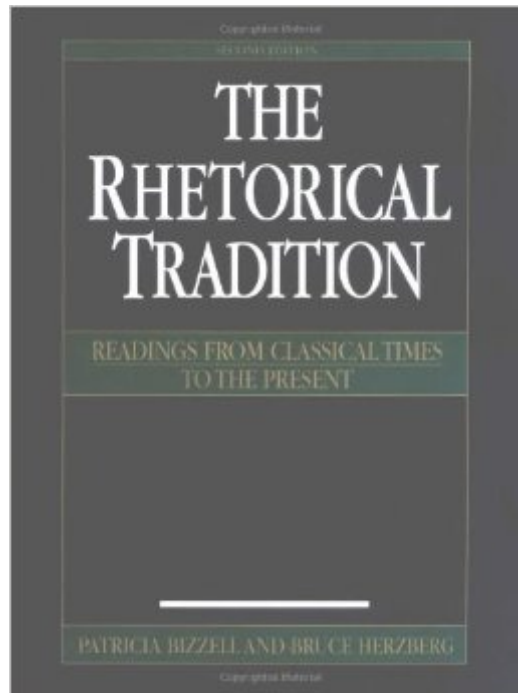


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The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings From Classical Times To The Present



Synopsis

The Rhetorical Tradition is the first comprehensive anthology of primary texts covering the history of rhetoric. It examines rhetorical theory from classical antiquity through the modern period. Extensive editorial material makes it an essential text for the beginning student as well as the professional scholar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This vitally important anthology has little if any competition, which is unfortunate, as it has been far too sloppily done. This is particularly noticeable, to me at least, in the classical section. Even the English is full of often seriously misleading misprints; and the occasional inclusion of Greek words almost invariably betrays great ignorance of that language and its alphabet, on the part of the editorial team. Translator's explanatory footnotes are in many cases imported raw from the bilingual Loeb Classical Library edition in which the translation originally appeared, but the system these notes use for specifying other loci within the same work is in too many cases not supported in the printing of the translated text itself. Thus if a note cross-references a locus that happens to be included in the anthology, it still cannot be followed. In Plato, for instance, such cross references are given in the notes in standard Stephanine form, but the translated dialogues have been here reprinted without any Stephanine markings whatsoever. Other selections are reproduced without even the most vital of translator's notes, as that in Kennedy's translation of Gorgias' "Encomium of Helen," which indicates that part of one section is translated not from the actual Greek text, which is

hopelessly corrupt at that point, but rather from a conjectural reconstruction. Given the void this anthology filled, such problems were perhaps forgivable in the first edition; but why they were suffered to remain uncorrected in a second edition a decade later is inexplicable.

The texts are well chosen, though perhaps less well edited. It's great to have Plato, Erasmus, Derrida, and Cixous all together, but I think the book could have been more carefully done. I think there's much in the selection from Aristotle that could have been cut, and much from Quintilian that should have been included (material from Book III, for example). The Cicero abridgement is poorly done--it's difficult to infer who's speaking at the beginning of the selection from Book II. Boethius doesn't really need to be here, and it's difficult to see how the Kristeva essay really has anything to do with rhetoric. And the introductory sections are not what they could be. Often, difficult technical terms in the selections that follow them are NOT explained and defined clearly in the introductory notes. This is a usable text that is not carefully done.

As a single volume of collected rhetorical readings, the volume rocks. Plus, it can serve as a bookend or self-defense weapon in case ninjas attack, but be sure to see your massage therapist regularly if you have to carry this puppy in your bookbag more than once a week. I'm only half kidding--hauling this thing around is impractical at best. As for the editorial/translation issues, I'll let other expert reviewers address that. As a student, this book stinks. There is little user-friendly about the book. Paper thin pages with non-existent margins and tiny print. This thing should be TWO volumes, not one. If it were printed in two over-sized volumes like *Central Works in Tech Comm*, it would be much more viable. Onion skin paper is maybe good for the Bible, but this isn't the Bible. If I want to mark texts or comment, I can't find anywhere to do it or my markings bleed. As a required textbook in some graduate programs, this is stinky. If your program requires you to buy the book, buy it. Then scan it to PDF format and take your notes with Acrobat or another program. Seriously, attempting to take notes in this volume nearly drove me buggy. I find it richly ironic that a text about rhetoric, where context and audience awareness are so critical, completely ignores both its audience's contexts and needs.

The book came in a bit worse condition than I was expecting with a taped cover and lots of stickers, but the pages so far are clean and not missing, so that is more important. Book arrived promptly too so otherwise no complaints.

This volume remains the standard for history-of-rhetoric courses. Inside are the full texts of Plato and Aristotle as well as healthy doses of Burke, Weaver, Erasmus, Augustine, Cixous, Gates, and all sorts of good thinkers on rhetoric.

Has a nice selection from the rhetorical masters and covers its bases rather well. You've got all your basics, from Plato to Cicero to Locke. However, as this is the first edition, I wouldn't suggest getting it unless your professor pointedly asks for it. Several important pieces are missing from this one that appear in the second edition and vice versa. This means that it is impossible to sell back afterward. Good uses for it range from paperweight to missile. You could probably kill an assailant with it if you chunked it at them.

If you need information on rhetoric this is the book for you; helps you understand rhetoric and writing.. It is quite lengthy, after all it does cover from classical times to the present, but is full of information. Great resource book. I have even gotten some ideas out of it for making English comp. more interesting.

This is required text for my rhetorical theory class. I wouldn't necessarily read this for fun or anything but out of the required texts, this book is really great. It is really thorough and includes some of the works like Gorgias and Phaedrus. My professor calls it the Rhetoric Bible. He requires it for every class and even has his own well-worn copy. If you're a student stuck buying this book, I think you'll be ok with it but make sure you have a comfy backpack because this book is a heavy mamajama.

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