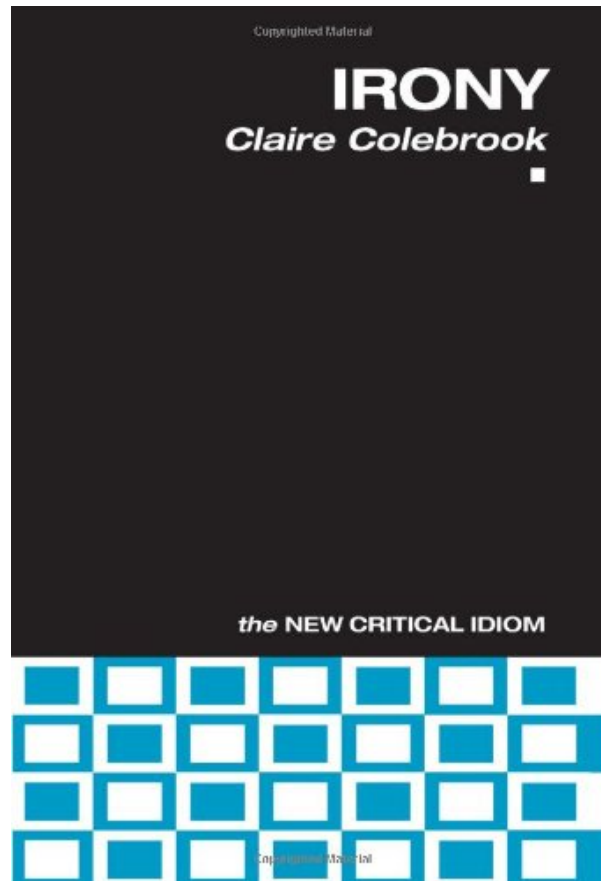


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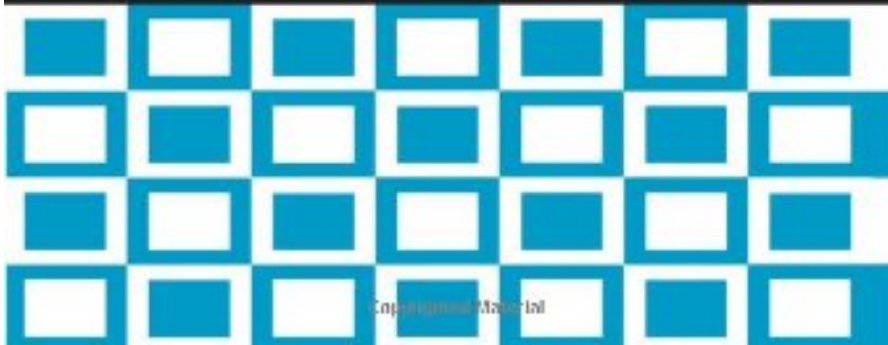


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# IRONY

*Claire Colebrook*

*the* NEW CRITICAL IDIOM



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## Review

"The Routledge New Critical Idiom series offers some excellent overviews of significant terms and topics in contemporary theory."

## About the Author

Claire Colebrook teaches English at the University of Edinburgh. Her publications include Gilles Deleuze, in the Routledge Critical Thinkers series and Irony in the Work of Philosophy.

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# **IRONY (THE NEW CRITICAL IDIOM) BY CLAIRE COLEBROOK PDF**

In this handy volume, Claire Colebrook offers an overview of the history and structure of irony, from Socrates to the present.

Students will welcome this clear, concise guide, which:

\*traces the use of the concept through history, from Greek times to the Romantic period and on to the postmodern era

\*looks closely at the work of Socrates and the more contemporary theorists Jacques Derrida and Gilles Deleuze

\*explores the philosophical, literary and political dimensions of irony

\*applies theories of irony to literary texts

Making even the most difficult debates accessible and clear, this is the ideal student introduction to the many theories of irony.

- Sales Rank: #467298 in Books
- Published on: 2003-11-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.98" h x .64" w x 6.02" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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## Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

### Irony and Byron

By Matthew J. Harding

While reading the book I thought that it would have been better to have titled it, "How Byron and the Romantics Understood and Used Irony (with guest appearances by other writers and theorists)," but I realized even then that this waif-like book cover couldn't support such a hefty (and unwieldy) moniker. It seemed, at times, that Colebrook was rehearsing an upcoming book on Byron because she seemed to dedicate much of the page length to examining the seminal texts on Byron's use of irony and/or satire. On a more serious note, the book does cover the rise of irony and also explains--mostly well, I suppose--how different theorists/philosophers have understood irony, but the Romantics are the stars here, folks. I also thought--especially just after finishing *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*--that Richard Rorty got short shrift

from Colebrook. I was also surprised-- being a fan of the man--that Wayne Booth's ideas on irony were not showcased more (and to my mind, it's Booth who argues about the community that irony creates, not Rorty, but I could be mistaken). I will add that for such a small book, its project is quite expansive, so I would recommend it to anyone looking for a deeper understanding of this complex topic. I also liked that Colebrook brought in Deleuze towards the close as I haven't read much that the man has written, but he seems to be gaining currency in Academia these days. Irony, it's not just for hipsters.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great introductory text

By D. Wotitzky

Claire Colebrook's contribution to the Routledge "New Critical Idiom" series is on Irony, and series editor John Drakakis should be commended for selecting her. Professor Colebrook provides college students studying philosophy, English literature, or literary criticism with a clearly delineated introductory guide to the concept of irony. Her study covers irony from the time of Socrates on through postmodernism. One comes away from each chapter with a sense of assurance that the sophisticated ideas have been aptly explained, particularly for an introductory text. This does not mean that one would appreciate the clarity and concision of Professor Colebrook's writing without having engaged with some of Plato's Socratic dialogues and, to a much greater degree, the work of postmodern thinkers like Jacques Derrida and Gilles Deleuze. In one of the more interesting sections of the book, Colebrook applies the concept of irony to the works of Byron, and from there explores identity politics through the alembic of irony and postmodernism. With *Irony*, Claire Colebrook succeeds in providing students with a perspicuously written introduction on a topic that's usual literary offerings either require a high-level of erudition or barely skim the surface of the concept.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Best book on irony

By tintintoo

This is the best book-length overview of irony I have come across. Colebrook manages to be both succinct and wide-ranging, providing synopses of theories of irony since Classical times. She covers a lot of territory yet her explanations are never simplistic. What a brilliant accomplishment to explain such a broad trope/concept as irony, without losing sight of its complexities--all in under 200 pages! Colebrook writes on philosophers and poets and is impressive in her knowledge of both.

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