

# The Gospel According To Superheroes Religion And Popular Culture Foreword By Stan Lee Second Printing

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## Captain America and the Struggle of the Superhero - Robert G. Weiner 2009-06-08

For more than 60 years, Captain America was one of Marvel Comics' flagship characters, representing truth, strength, liberty, and justice. The assassination of his alter ego, Steve Rogers, rocked the comic world, leaving numerous questions about his life and death. This book discusses topics including the representation of Nazi Germany in Captain America Comics from the 1940s to the 1960s; the creation of Captain America in light of the Jewish American experience; the relationship between Captain America and UK Marvel's Captain Britain; the groundbreaking partnership between Captain America and African American superhero the Falcon; and the attempts made to kill the character before his "real" death.

## **The Other Jesus** - Greg Garrett 2011

Drawing on popular culture to illustrate his spiritual points, the author of *We Get to Carry Each Other: The Gospel According to U2* shares his experiences growing up in and eventually leaving a conservative church, and finding his way back into a different kind of Christian community--one based on love and mercy rather than judgment. Original.

## Our Superheroes, Ourselves - Robin S. Rosenberg 2013-08

Why are so many people fascinated by superheroes? In this thoughtful, engaging, and intelligent collection, editor Robin Rosenberg

compiles essays by some of the world's leading scholars to address our relationships with superheroes (and supervillains) as well as the humanity of superheroes. How do characters and stories reflect human nature? What is the role of justice in superhero worlds? Finally, are superhero stories good for us? These questions and many more are addressed in this illuminating new book.

## **American Theology, Superhero Comics, and Cinema** - Anthony Mills 2013-10-01

Stan Lee, who was the head writer of Marvel Comics in the early 1960s, co-created such popular heroes as Spider-Man, Hulk, the X-Men, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Thor, and Daredevil. This book traces the ways in which American theologians and comic books of the era were not only both saying things about what it means to be human, but, starting with Lee they were largely saying the same things. Author Anthony R. Mills argues that the shift away from individualistic ideas of human personhood and toward relational conceptions occurring within both American theology and American superhero comics and films does not occur simply on the ontological level, but is also inherent to epistemology and ethics, reflecting the comprehensive nature of human life in terms of being, knowing, and acting. This book explores the idea of the "American monomyth" that pervades American hero stories and examines its philosophical and theological origins and

specific manifestations in early American superhero comics. Surveying the anthropologies of six American theologians who argue against many of the monomyth's assumptions, principally the staunch individualism taken to be the model of humanity, and who offer relationality as a more realistic and ethical alternative, this book offers a detailed argument for the intimate historical relationship between the now disparate fields of comic book/superhero film creation, on the one hand, and Christian theology, on the other, in the United States. An understanding of the early connections between theology and American conceptions of heroism helps to further make sense of their contemporary parallels, wherein superhero stories and theology are not strictly separate phenomena but have shared origins and concerns.

**Understanding Evangelical Media** - Quentin J Sch Robert Herbert Woods Jr 2010-05-07

As long as there has been a church, there has been Christian communication - "people of the book" bearing "the good news" from one place to another, persuading, teaching and even delighting an ever-broadening audience with the message of the gospel. Amid ongoing advances in technology and an ever-more-multicultural context, however, the time has come for a broad appraisal of the state of evangelical communications. Quentin Schultze and Robert H. Woods Jr. have assembled scholars from across the country to analyze and assess a wide range of media including radio popular music worship music and media television film periodicals books Internet church drama comics gaming theme parks advertising public relations merchandising These shifting media, and the communications enterprise as a whole, are put in cultural and ethical perspective. Also addressed are Catholic and Jewish perspectives on the state of religious media.

*The Gospel According to Superheroes* - B. J. Oropeza 2005

And 1970s, and the dark and violent creatures who embody the pre- and post-millennial crises of faith. Lavishly illustrated, the articles come to startling conclusions about what we have really been reading under the covers with flashlights for generations. Annotation ©2004 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com).

**Superheroes Can't Save You: Study Guide** -

Jared Musgrove 2019-05-15

"Are you worshiping a fictional superhero, or the Jesus of the Bible?" Have you ever wondered what makes Jesus different from your favorite superhero? Have you questioned how Jesus could really be all that the Bible says he is? This seven-week study, used in conjunction with Todd Miles' *Superheroes Can't Save You*, will challenge you to keep asking these questions, and point you to answers that are grounded in the Bible's unchanging truth. Bible Study Sessions: Session 1: Superman Can't Save You - Was Jesus God in disguise? Session 2: Batman Can't Save You - Was Jesus just a remarkable human? Session 3: Ant-Man Can't Save You - Was Jesus one of three "costumes" of the one God? Session 4: Thor Can't Save You - Was Jesus created by God? Session 5: Green Lantern Can't Save You - Was Jesus a good man that God adopted? Session 6: The Hulk Can't Save You - Was Jesus a divine mind in a human body? Session 7: Spider-Man Can't Save You - Was Jesus part man and part God? Features: No additional leader guide required! This guide contains all of the participant information, plus instructions and suggestions for the week's discussion leader. Each week begins with independent work in "The Prologue," brings the group together for discussion as part of "The League," and concludes with a time of personal reflection and application in "The Fortress of Solitude." Invites you to dive in to an in-depth yet accessible study of Christology - the study of the person, nature, and role of Jesus Christ. Great for youth and college groups and adults of all ages who want to learn about Jesus as the Bible reveals him.

**Teaching the Bible Through Popular Culture and the Arts** - Mark Roncace

2012-11-01

This resource enables biblical studies instructors to facilitate engaging classroom experiences by drawing on the arts and popular culture. It offers brief overviews of hundreds of easily accessible examples of art, film, literature, music, and other media and outlines strategies for incorporating them effectively and concisely in the classroom. Although designed primarily for college and seminary courses on the Bible, the ideas can easily be adapted for classes such

as "Theology and Literature" or "Religion and Art" as well as for nonacademic settings. This compilation is an invaluable resource for anyone who teaches the Bible.

**Encyclopedia of Religion and Film** - Eric Michael Mazur 2011-03-08

Comprising 91 A-Z entries, this encyclopedia provides a broad and comprehensive introduction to the topic of religion within film. • Presents 91 A-Z entries that illuminate topics of geographic and regional interest, biographic data, categories common in the study of religion, and examinations of specific films or film-related events • Contains contributions from a remarkable group of distinguished, well-published authorities and younger scholars, all with relevant backgrounds in religion, film, culture, or multiple areas of expertise • Includes images of important film directors as well as film stills • Provides selected bibliographic information regarding the intersection of religion and film that supplements the "for further reading" section of each entry • Offers an indexed filmography of works noted throughout the encyclopedia, providing significant information about each film, such as year released, director, and major actors  
*The Gospel According to Hollywood* - Greg Garrett 2007

In this new book in the *Gospel According To* series, Garrett looks at the theological elements in dozens of classic Hollywood films, including a discussion about what the new openness to spirituality in the movies might mean for the future of American cinema and American religion. (Biblical Studies)

**Superheroes Can't Save You** - Todd Miles 2018-04-01

Comic superheroes embody the hopes of a world that is desperate for a savior. But those comic creations cannot save us from our greatest foes—sin and death. Throughout the history of the Church there have been bad ideas, misconceptions, and heretical presentations of Jesus. Each one of these heresies fails to present Jesus as the Bible reveals him. In *Superheroes Can't Save You*, Todd Miles demonstrates how these ancient heresies are embodied in contemporary comic superheroes. Miles compares something everybody already knows (who the superheroes are) with what they need

to know (who Jesus is), in a book that makes vitally important Christian truths understandable and applicable to a wide audience.

**The Cinematic Superhero as Social Practice** - Joseph Zornado 2021-11-06

This book analyzes the cinematic superhero as social practice. The study's critical context brings together psychoanalysis and restorative and reflective nostalgia as a way of understanding the ideological function of superhero fantasy. It explores the origins of cinematic superhero fantasy from antecedents in myth and religion, to twentieth-century comic book, to the cinematic breakthrough with *Superman* (1978). The authors then focus on *Spider-Man* as reflective response to *Superman's* restorative nostalgia, and read MCU's overarching narrative from *Iron Man* to *End Game* in terms of the concurrent social, political, and environmental conditions as a world in crisis. Zornado and Reilly take up *Wonder Woman* and *Black Panther* as self-conscious attempts to reflect on gender and race in restorative superhero fantasy, and explore Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy as a meditation on the need for authoritarian fascism. The book concludes with *Logan*, *Wonder Woman* 1984, and Amazon Prime's *The Boys* as distinctly reflective fantasy narratives critical of the superhero fantasy phenomenon.

**We Get to Carry Each Other** - Greg Garrett 2009-07-08

Who among us has not experienced hearing a song that moved us deeply, that spoke to us in a truly spiritual way? Millions of fans around the world have found that inspiration in the music of U2, arguably the biggest band in the world today. This engaging and informative book examines the spirituality that drives U2, a band whose influence has spread far beyond music and whose songs encourage listeners to put their faith into action for the sake of the poor and marginalized.

**Drawing on Religion** - Ken Koltun-Fromm 2020-12-11

Comics traffic in stereotypes, which can translate into real danger, as was the case when, in 2015, two Muslim gunmen opened fire at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, which had published depictions of Islam and Muhammad perceived by

many to be blasphemous. As a response to that tragedy, Ken Koltun-Fromm calls for us to expand our moral imaginations through readings of graphic religious narratives. Utilizing a range of comic books and graphic novels, including R. Crumb's *Book of Genesis Illustrated*, Craig Thompson's *Blankets*, the Vakil brothers' *40 Sufi Comics*, and *Ms. Marvel*, Koltun-Fromm argues that representing religion in these formats is an ethical issue. By focusing on the representation of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu religious traditions, the comics discussed in this book bear witness to the ethical imagination, the possibilities of traversing religious landscapes, and the problematic status of racial, classed, and gendered characterizations of religious persons. Koltun-Fromm explores what religious stereotypes do and how they function in comics in ways that might expand or diminish our imaginative worlds. The pedagogical challenge, he argues, is to linger in that space and see those worlds well, with both ethical sensitivity and moral imagination. Accessibly written and vibrantly illustrated, this book sheds new light on the ways in which comic arts depict religious faith and culture. It will appeal to students and scholars of religion, literature, and comic studies.

**The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film** - John Lyden 2009

The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film brings together a lively and experienced team of contributors to investigate the ways in which this exciting discipline is developing.

**The Routledge Companion to Religion and Popular Culture** - John C. Lyden 2015-03-27

Religion and popular culture is a fast-growing field that spans a variety of disciplines. This volume offers the first real survey of the field to date and provides a guide for the work of future scholars. It explores: key issues of definition and of methodology religious encounters with popular culture across media, material culture and space, ranging from videogames and social networks to cooking and kitsch, architecture and national monuments representations of religious traditions in the media and popular culture, including important non-Western spheres such as Bollywood This Companion will serve as an enjoyable and informative resource for students and a stimulus to future scholarly work.

**Superheroes and Identities** - Mel Gibson  
2016-03-22

Superheroes have been the major genre to emerge from comics and graphic novels, saturating popular culture with images of muscular men and sexy women. A major aspect of this genre is identity in the roles played by individuals, the development of identities through extended stories and in the ways the characters inspire audiences. This collection analyses stories from popular comics franchises such as *Batman*, *Captain America*, *Ms Marvel* and *X-Men*, alongside less well known comics such as *Kabuki* and *Flex Mentallo*. It explores what superhero narratives can reveal about our attitudes towards femininity, race, maternity, masculinity and queer culture. Using this approach, the volume asks questions such as why there are no black supervillains in mainstream comics, how second wave feminism and feminist film theory may help us to understand female comic book characters, the ways in which *Flex Mentallo* transcends the boundaries of straightness and gayness and how both fans and industry appropriate the sexual identity of superheroes. The book was originally published in a special issue of the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*.

**Superhero Comics** - Chris Gavaler 2017-10-05

A complete guide to the history, form and contexts of the genre, *Superhero Comics* helps readers explore the most successful and familiar of comic book genres. In an accessible and easy-to-navigate format, the book reveals: ·The history of superhero comics-from mythic influences to 21st century evolutions ·Cultural contexts-from the formative politics of colonialism, eugenics, KKK vigilantism, and WWII fascism to the Cold War's transformative threat of mutually assured destruction to the ongoing revolutions in African American and sexual representation ·Key texts-from the earliest pre-Comics-Code *Superman* and *Batman* to the latest post-Code *Ms. Marvel* and *Black Panther* ·Approaches to visual analysis-from layout norms to narrative structure to styles of abstraction

**Invented Religions** - Carole M. Cusack

2016-05-06  
Utilizing contemporary scholarship on secularization, individualism, and consumer capitalism, this book explores religious

movements founded in the West which are intentionally fictional: Discordianism, the Church of All Worlds, the Church of the SubGenius, and Jediism. Their continued appeal and success, principally in America but gaining wider audience through the 1980s and 1990s, is chiefly as a result of underground publishing and the internet. This book deals with immensely popular subject matter: Jediism developed from George Lucas' Star Wars films; the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, founded by 26-year-old student Bobby Henderson in 2005 as a protest against the teaching of Intelligent Design in schools; Discordianism and the Church of the SubGenius which retain strong followings and participation rates among college students. The Church of All Worlds' focus on Gaia theology and environmental issues makes it a popular focus of attention. The continued success of these groups of Invented Religions provide a unique opportunity to explore the nature of late/post-modern religious forms, including the use of fiction as part of a bricolage for spirituality, identity-formation, and personal orientation.

*Marvelous Myths* - Russell W Dalton 2011-04-01

What makes someone a hero? In the early 1960's, the image of a superhero was someone with a square jaw, a muscular build, and a quick smile whose biggest personal problem was trying to keep their girlfriends from guessing their secret identities. Then writer Stan Lee and artists Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko created a group of superheroes who revolutionized comics. These heroes, including The Fantastic Four, The Incredible Hulk, Spider-man, The X-men, Iron Man, Captain America and others, were not perfect heroes living in a perfect world, but fallible people with physical ailments and personal problems like our own. While the authors and artists who created them did not intend to write explicitly religious stories, their tales of imperfect heroes who try to do the right thing despite the many challenges they face, provide us with the opportunity to reflect on our own faith journeys as we strive to live heroic lives in the real world. Each chapter reflects on the heroes' most famous adventures and discusses the ways in which we are called to overcome many of the same obstacles they face as we strive to carry out the ministries to which God calls us. Each chapter ends with questions

for reflection or group study.

**The 21st Century Superhero** - Richard J. Gray II 2011-09-07

Superhero films are one of the most enduring genres of cinema, and their popularity is only increasing in the 21st century. These ten critical essays explore the phenomenon through the lenses of numerous academic disciplines, and cover topics such as the role of globalization in the formation of superhero narratives, the shifting nature of masculinity and femininity in the superhero world and the state of the genre today. Of particular interest is the way these narratives, however fantastic, abstract, futuristic or simplistic, resonate with specific events in the world and function as starting points for discussion of contemporary sociopolitical conflicts.

**The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film** - John Lyden 2009-05-07

The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film brings together a lively and experienced team of contributors to introduce students to the key topics in religion and film and to investigate the ways in which the exciting subject of religion and film is developing for more experienced scholars. Divided into four parts, the Companion: analyzes the history of the interaction of religion and film, through periods of censorship as well as appreciation of the medium studies religion-in-film, examining how the world's major religions, as well as Postcolonial, Japanese and New Religions, are depicted by and within films uses diverse methodologies to explore religion and film, such as psychoanalytical, theological and feminist approaches, and audience reception analyzes religious themes in film, including Redemption, the Demonic, Jesus or Christ Figures, Heroes and Superheroes considers films as diverse as The Passion of the Christ, The Matrix, Star Wars and Groundhog Day. This definitive book provides an accessible resource to this emerging field and is an indispensable guide to religion and film for students of Religion, Film Studies, and beyond.

Holy Heroes - Scott Bayles 2016-05-13

Author, pastor, and founder of the cosplay ministry Costumers for Christ, Scott Bayles is passionate about teaching spiritual life lessons based on the stories of comic book heroes.

Likening the legends of superheroes to modern-day parables, Bayles connects the stories of comic book heroes such as Batman, Wonder Woman, Cyborg, Spider-Man, Green Lantern, the X-Men, and others with the timeless truths of God's Word. So, if you're a fan of DC and Marvel and a follower of Jesus or if you'd like to know more about one or the other then this book is for you! Includes questions for small-group discussion and features photos of actual cosplayers to introduce each character. Great for older teens and young adults and beyond! And, hopefully, you'll discover Jesus is the greatest superhero of them all!

The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and American Popular Culture - Dan W. Clanton, Jr. 2020

"The study of the reciprocal relationship between the Bible and popular culture has blossomed in the past few decades, and the time seems ripe for a broadly-conceived work that assesses the current state of the field, offers examples of work in that field, and suggests directions for further study. This Handbook includes a wide range of topics organized under several broad themes, including biblical characters and themes in popular culture; the Bible in popular cultural genres; "lived" examples; and a concluding section in which we take stock of methodologies like Reception History and the impact of the field on teaching and publishing. These topics are all addressed by focusing on specific examples from film, television, comics, music, literature, video games, science fiction, material culture, museums, and theme parks, to name a few. This book represents a major contribution to the field by some of its leading practitioners, and will be a key resource for the future development of the study of Bible and American popular culture"--

Graven Images - A. David Lewis 2010-10-21

Comic books have increasingly become a vehicle for serious social commentary and, specifically, for innovative religious thought. Practitioners of both traditional religions and new religious movements have begun to employ comics as a missionary tool, while humanists and religious progressives use comics' unique fusion of text and image to criticize traditional theologies and to offer alternatives. Addressing the increasing fervor with which the public has come to view comics as an art form and Americans' fraught

but passionate relationship with religion, Graven Images explores with real insight the roles of religion in comic books and graphic novels. In essays by scholars and comics creators, Graven Images observes the frequency with which religious material—in devout, educational, satirical, or critical contexts—occurs in both independent and mainstream comics.

Contributors identify the unique advantages of the comics medium for religious messages; analyze how comics communicate such messages; place the religious messages contained in comic books in appropriate cultural, social, and historical frameworks; and articulate the significance of the innovative theologies being developed in comics.

**Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels [2 volumes]** - M. Keith Booker  
2010-05-11

The most comprehensive reference ever compiled about the rich and enduring genre of comic books and graphic novels, from their emergence in the 1930s to their late-century breakout into the mainstream. • Includes over 330 entries on comic books and their creators • Presents the work of 80 contributors—accomplished academics and librarians who are also fans of comic books and graphic novels • Offers selected bibliographic listings with the entries • Provides a comprehensive index of artists, writers, works, characters, genres, and themes

**Religion and Science Fiction** - James F. McGrath 2011-08-01

Religious themes, concepts, imagery, and terminology have featured prominently in much recent science fiction. In the book you hold in your hands, scholars working in a range of disciplines (such as theology, literature, history, music, and anthropology) offer their perspectives on a variety of points at which religion and science fiction intersect. From Frankenstein, by way of Christian apocalyptic, to Star Wars, Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, and much more, and from the United States to China and back again, the authors who contribute to this volume serve as guides in the exploration of religion and science fiction as a multifaceted, multidisciplinary, and multicultural phenomenon.

**Irreverence and the Sacred** - Hugh Urban

2018-11-30

Irreverence and the Sacred brings together some of the most cutting edge, interdisciplinary, and international scholars working today in order to debate key issues in the critical and comparative study of religion. The project is inspired in large part by the work of Bruce Lincoln, whose influential and wide-ranging scholarship has consistently posed challenging, provocative, and often-irreverent questions that have really pushed the boundaries of the field of religious studies in important, sometimes controversial ways. Retracing the history of the discipline of religious studies, Lincoln argues that the field has tended to champion a "validating, feel-good" approach to religion, rather than posing more critical questions about religious claims to authority and their role in history, politics, and social change. A critical approach to the history of religions, he suggests, would focus on the human, temporal, and material aspects of phenomena that are claimed to have a superhuman, eternal, or transcendent status. This volume takes up Lincoln's challenge to "do better," by engaging in critical analyses of four key themes in the study of religion: myth, ritual, gender, and politics. The book also interrogates the "politics of scholarship" itself, critically examining the relations of power and material interests at work in the study as well as the practice of religion. The scholars involved in this project include not only some of the most important figures in the American study of religion--such as Wendy Doniger, Russell McCutcheon, Ivan Strenski, and Lincoln himself--but also European scholars whose work is hugely influential overseas but not as well known in the U.S.--such as Stefan Arvidsson, Claude Calame, Nicolas Meylan, and others.

*Visions of the Future in Comics* - Francesco Alessio Ursini 2017-10-04

Across generations and genres, comics have imagined different views of the future, from unattainable utopias to worrisome dystopias. These presaging narratives can be read as reflections of their authors' (and readers') hopes, fears and beliefs about the present. This collection of new essays explores the creative processes in comics production that bring plausible futures to the page. The contributors investigate portrayals in different stylistic

traditions--manga, bande desinees--from a variety of theoretical perspectives. The picture that emerges documents the elaborate storylines and complex universes comics creators have been crafting for decades.

**Superman in Myth and Folklore** - Daniel Peretti 2017-10-05

Superman rose from popular culture--comic books, newspaper strips, radio, television, novels, and movies" but people have so embraced the character that he has now become part of folklore. This transition from popular to folk culture signals the importance of Superman to fans and to a larger American populace. Superman's story has become a myth dramatizing identity, morality, and politics. Many studies have examined the ways in which folklore has provided inspiration for other forms of culture, especially literature and cinema. In *Superman in Myth and Folklore*, Daniel Peretti explores the meaning of folklore inspired by popular culture, focusing not on the Man of Steel's origins but on the culture he has helped create. Superman provides a way to approach fundamental questions of human nature, a means of exploring humanity's relationship with divinity, an exemplar for debate about the type of hero society needs, and an articulation of the tension between the individual and the community. Through examinations of tattoos, humor, costuming, and festivals, Peretti portrays Superman as a corporate-owned intellectual property and a model for behavior, a means for expression and performance of individual identity, and the focal point for disparate members of fan communities. As fans apply Superman stories to their lives, they elevate him to a mythical status. Peretti focuses on the way these fans have internalized various aspects of the character. In doing so, he delves into the meaning of Superman and his place in American culture and demonstrates the character's staying power.

**The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality: Critical Readings** - Lynn R. Huber 2020-10-01

This volume collects both classic and cutting-edge readings related to gender, sex, sexuality, and the Bible. Engaging the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and surrounding texts and worlds, Rhiannon Graybill and Lynn R. Huber have amassed a selection of essays that reflects a

wide range of perspectives and approaches towards gender and sexuality. Presented in three distinct parts, the collection begins with an examination of gender in and around biblical contexts, before moving to discussing sex and sexualities, and finally critiques of gender and sexuality. Each reading is introduced by the editors in order to situate it in its broader scholarly context, and each section culminates in an annotated list of further readings to point researchers towards other engagements with these key themes.

*Holy Superheroes!* - Greg Garrett 2008

Pulitzer-prize nominee and English professor Garrett explores the deeper side of comic books--and the motion pictures they inspire--for the lessons they can teach readers about faith, justice, and redemption.

*The Gospel According to the World's Greatest Superhero* - Stephen Skelton 2006

Skelton leads the reader through fast-paced discussions of such striking phenomena as the influence of Christ's life on superheroes, and the similarities between the devil and comic book protagonists.

**The Secret Origins of Comics Studies** -

Matthew Smith 2017-09-19

In *The Secret Origins of Comics Studies*, today's leading comics scholars turn back a page to reveal the founding figures dedicated to understanding comics art. Edited by comics scholars Matthew J. Smith and Randy Duncan, this collection provides an in-depth study of the individuals and institutions that have created and shaped the field of Comics Studies over the past 75 years. From Coulton Waugh to Wolfgang Iser, these influential historians, educators, and theorists produced the foundational work and built the institutions that inspired the recent surge in scholarly work in this dynamic, interdisciplinary field. Sometimes scorned, often underappreciated, these visionaries established a path followed by subsequent generations of scholars in literary studies, communication, art history, the social sciences, and more. Giving not only credit where credit is due, this volume both offers an authoritative account of the history of Comics Studies and also helps move the field forward by being a valuable resource for creating graduate student reading lists and the first stop for anyone writing a comics-related

literature review.

*On the Origin of Superheroes* - Chris Gavaler 2015-11-01

Most readers think that superheroes began with Superman's appearance in *Action Comics No. 1*, but that Kryptonian rocket didn't just drop out of the sky. By the time Superman's creators were born, the superhero's most defining elements—secret identities, aliases, disguises, signature symbols, traumatic origin stories, extraordinary powers, self-sacrificing altruism—were already well-rehearsed standards. Superheroes have a sprawling, action-packed history that predates the Man of Steel by decades and even centuries. *On the Origin of Superheroes* is a quirky, personal tour of the mythology, literature, philosophy, history, and grand swirl of ideas that have permeated western culture in the centuries leading up to the first appearance of superheroes (as we know them today) in 1938. From the creation of the universe, through mythological heroes and gods, to folklore, ancient philosophy, revolutionary manifestos, discarded scientific theories, and gothic monsters, the sweep and scale of the superhero's origin story is truly epic. We will travel from Jane Austen's Bath to Edgar Rice Burroughs's Mars to Owen Wister's Wyoming, with some surprising stops along the way. We'll meet mad scientists, Napoleonic dictators, costumed murderers, diabolical madmen, blackmailers, pirates, Wild West outlaws, eugenicists, the KKK, Victorian do-gooders, detectives, aliens, vampires, and pulp vigilantes (to name just a few). Chris Gavaler is your tour guide through this fascinating, sometimes dark, often funny, but always surprising prehistory of the most popular figure in pop culture today. In a way, superheroes have always been with us: they are a fossil record of our greatest aspirations and our worst fears and failings.

*Superman and the Bible* - Nicholaus Pumphrey 2019-02-05

In 1938, Superman debuted, jumping off the pages of *Action Comics #1*. In the cultural context of the Great Depression and World War II, the U.S. would see the rise of the superhero not only in comic books but in radio programs, animated cartoons and television shows. Superman forever changed one's concept of the hero and became permanently engrained in both



American and worldwide culture. This study explores the Man of Steel's narrative as a fresh perspective on readings of the Bible--his character is reflected in such figures as Moses, Samson and Jesus. The author argues that if we read the Bible it can be said we are reading about Superman.

**Superheroes and Their Ancient Jewish**

**Parallels** - Johnny E. Miles 2018-03-09

Persia had Rostam. Babylonia had Gilgamesh and Enkidu. Egypt had Horus and Isis. Greece had Odysseus and Achilles. Israel had its heroes, too--Moses, David, Esther and Samson. While Israel's heroes did not wear capes or spandex, they did meet cultural needs. In times of crisis, heroes emerge to model virtues that inspire a sense of commitment and worth. Identity concerns were especially acute for a post-exilic Jewish culture. Using modern American superheroes and their stories in a cross-cultural discussion, this book presents the stories of Israelite characters as heroes filling a cultural need.

*The Assimilation of Yogic Religions through Pop Culture* - Paul G. Hackett 2017-10-23

This volume presents case studies in the shifting representations of yogic themes and figures in worldwide popular culture from the middle of the nineteenth century to contemporary times. The authors analyze everything from comic books and novels to television, movies, and theater as they portray yogis and their esoteric practices.

**Battleground: Religion [2 volumes]** - Daniel L. Smith-Christopher Ph.D. 2008-12-30

Is there a controversial issue in the contemporary world that does not involve religion? Whether it's a debate over the beginning of life, or on sexuality and family life,

or on the stewardship of humans over the environment, almost all of the most contentious matters that impact today's society involve people's deeply held religious beliefs. *Battleground: Religion* helps clarify these complex topics by examining how various religious beliefs and practices impact current political, social, and cultural debates. Each of the approximately 100 entries examines a hot-button issue—from war and peace to the culture wars—and discusses, in a balanced and objective way, the points of view on these topics from all parts of the religious spectrum. Students will come away from *Battleground: Religion* with a better understanding of the issues that they will be encountering for years to come. Each entry includes a bibliography or resources for further information.

*A Feminist Companion to Tobit and Judith* -

Athalya Brenner-Idan 2015-10-22

*A Feminist Companion to Tobit and Judith* extends the work of the hugely influential and respected *Feminist Companion* series, which continues to set the standard for feminist approaches to the Hebrew Bible and related texts. In the present volume Athalya Brenner-Idan (with Helen Eftimiadis-Keith) draws together a range of scholarly commentators and addresses the core issues relating to feminist interpretations of the two texts at hand. The volume examines attitudes to gender, identities, exile, social mores, beliefs, clothing, food and drink, personal relationships, and biblical reception. The contributors are: Beverly Bow and George Nickelsburg, Athalya Brenner-Idan, Ora Brison, Helen Eftimiadis-Keith, Renate Egger-Wenzel, Beate Ego, Emma England, Jennifer Glancy, Jan Willem van Henten, Naomi Jacobs, Amy-Jill Levine, Pamela Milne, and Barbara Schmitz.