

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

February 12, 2015

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces A New Addition to the Critical Insights Series; *Critical Insights: The American Comic Book*

Edited by Joseph Michael Sommers, Associate Professor at *Central Michigan University*, *Critical Insights: The American Comic Book*, aims to serve as both an introduction to the topic for those approaching this medium for the first time and a compendium of fresh and even unexpected insights into the history, inspiration, and stories of one of the most important entertainment forms of the twentieth century.

Beginning as medium that reprinted popular newspaper comic strips, during the decade of the Great Depression, the comic book saw the development of the superhero in characters such as Superman and Batman. The American comic book would go on to feature a wide variety of stories, ranging from horror tales, to Westerns, to romances, to funny animal stories. During its heyday in the decade following World War II, the comic book rivaled film, radio, and television in popularity. Today, comics continue to inspire the development of the most popular movies and television programs.

This title is broken up into three sections: Critical Contexts, Critical Readings, and a resource appendix. The first touches upon the foundations of American Comic Books detailing its history, censorship, and culture. The second section, Critical Readings, delves into essays on individual works. Each essay is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of "Works Cited," along with endnotes. The essays review past and current criticism of works and themes.

Topics in this volume include:

- A Brief History of Comics
- Comic Censorship in the United States
- Cultural Difference in American Nonfiction Comics
- The Bronze Age
- The Silver Age
- Digital Media and the Comic Book
- Independent Comics
- Comics in Contemporary Film and Television
- Comic Fandom throughout the Ages

- History of Comic Book Women and Their Cinematic Doubles
- And much more

Finally, the volume's appendix offers a selection of useful reference resources such as: additional works on the American Comic Book genre, a bibliography, about the editor, contributors, and an index. *The American Comic Book* is a great reference for students, researchers, and anyone interested in learning about this highly popular form of entertainment.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most-studied literature. Edited and written by some of academe's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights* provide authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers have relied on for years. This volume will be a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase

Critical Insights: The American Comic Book is available at no additional cost to buyers of the print volume online through Salem’s online platform, Salem Literature. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title online.

Praise for the Critical Insights Series

“The text is written at a level appropriate for high school and undergraduate-level students, precisely the age that would be reading these titles and authors' works and needing resources to write critical papers for class. These resources will be useful for high school and undergraduate library collections. Online access is available with purchase of the print volume, which will be a huge benefit for classroom use since many students will be able to access the same information at one time.”— ARBA

Critical Insights: The American Comic Book

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-61925-226-4

300 pages

\$85.00

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-61925-227-1

Publisher: Salem Press