

Annotated Bibliography

About this document

This document presents an annotated bibliography in support of a research paper centering on the semiotics of Superman, and how he has changed over time.

The Bibliography

1. (T) The Quest for Meaning: A Guide to Semiotic Theory and Practice (A) Marcel **Danesi** (P) University of Toronto Press (D) 2020

This book introduces many of the semiotic concepts discussed within the paper, both Peircean and Saussurian views alike. Sections on code, myth, and narrative will be particularly helpful for me.

2. (T) How to Analyze Movies #2: Signs, Codes & Conventions (A) Manon de **Reeper** (P) Film Inquiry (D) 2017

The website "Film Inquiry" has an 8-part article guide on how to properly analyze film. The second article will be particularly useful, dealing with codes and signs.

3. (T) Superman (A) Peter **Sanderson** (P) Britannica (D) 2021

Britannica has an overview of the history of superman, and the historical context around many of the live action adaptations. Plots of these adaptations are also given and assist in locating changes in narrative and code.

4. (T) The Symbolic Structure of Movies – Batman V. Superman (2016) – Part I & 2 (A) David **Brodeur** (P) The Symbolic World (D) 2020

This article specifically goes over the structure of one of the films I am looking into semiotically, and touches on the structure of the plot, but also the characters and what they mean symbolically.

5. (T) Zack Snyder's Directing Style: What We Can Learn from Zack Snyder's Movies (A) N/A (P) StudioBinder (D) 2020

This article focuses specifically on Zack Snyder and his directorial style. Zack Snyder Directed Man of Steel (2013), Batman V. Superman (2016), and Zack Snyder's Justice League (2020). In order to understand the films, this page helps unpack how he creates symbolism and changed superman's (and batman's) character.

6. (T) Superman: Red Son Offers a Complex, Communist Man of Steel (A) Joshua **Lapin-Bertone** (P) DC Entertainment (D) 2020

This article written by DC Comics focuses on the 2020 film Superman: Red Son, with insight straight from the director. The moral complexity of the film's character development and plot are discussed, and considering Superman is from communist Russia in this particular adaptation, it dives into severe changes to the symbol of Superman.

7. (T) When did Superman's 'S' Symbol Change Its Meaning? (A) Xandra **Harbet** (P)Screenrant (D) 2019

A major part of the symbolism behind superman is of course the symbol on his chest, and what it represents. This article discusses the differences in the live action adaptations where the meaning behind the symbol deliberately changes.

8. (T) Semiotics in Animation (A) Josh **Hoare** (P) N/A (D) 2017

This article specifically lists certain types of representations and signs within animation, and how they vary. While many of the forms of entertainment discussed in the paper are live action, there are many adaptations of Superman that are animated, some of which will be discussed in the paper.

9. (T) The Evolution of Superman (A) N/A (P) Rolling Stone (D) 2013

This article was written right after man of steel was released in 2013, and shows a specific overview of what superman represented, and how that significantly changes from the 1930s, to WW2, up until Zack Snyder's rendition of the character.

10. (T) Superman Didn't Abandon "The American Way", We Did (A) Eric **Francisco** (P) Inverse (D) 2021

This article focuses on the *incredibly* recent development of the change of Superman's Motto, "Truth, Justice, and the American Way" to "Truth, Justice, and a Better Tomorrow". The reasonings for this possible change are given, and what the "American Way" was previously, and what it means now.