

Jewish-American Women: Contested Lives is a seminar examining Jewish-American women's lives through memoir, social history, literature, and film to assess the interplay of religious belief, secularism, social mobility, and other acculturating influences within the American experience.

We will consider Mary Antin's *The Promised Land* (1912), a celebration of immigrant acculturation; Anzia Yeziarska's far more troubled *Red Ribbon on a White Horse* (1950); Kate Simon's *Bronx Primitive* (1982), a memoir of a second generation female's adolescence; Lucy Dawidowicz's *From That Place and Time* (1989), the story of a young historian's attempt to preserve Vilna's cultural heritage against the threat of the Holocaust; Vivian Gornick's *Fierce Attachments* (1997), a writer's embattled relationship with her mother; Gerda Lerner's *Fireweed* (2003), an eminent historian of women's attempt to confront her Holocaust past and her involvement with American communism, civil rights, and second wave feminism; Rebecca Walker's *Black, White, and Jewish* (2002), the memoir of the daughter of black writer Alice Walker and Jewish lawyer and civil rights activist Mel Leventhal; and Jyl Lynn Felman's *Cravings* (1997), introspective essays about family and identity by a Jewish lesbian performance artist.