

**AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:335:01; JEWISH STUDIES 01:563:335:01;
WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES 01:988:334:01; ENGLISH 01:351:358:01 (WOMEN
AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY): JEWISH-AMERICAN WOMEN: CONTESTED LIVES**

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE:

1. Helen Jacobus Apte, *Heart of a Wife: The Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman*. Edited and with essays by her grandson Marcus D. Rosenbaum. Wilmington, Delaware: SR Books, A Scholarly Resources, Inc. Imprint, 1998. \$17.95.
2. Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*. Introduction and notes by Werner Sollors. 1912; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, The Penguin Group, 1997. \$13.00.
3. Anzia Yezierska, *Red Ribbon on a White Horse*. Introduction by W. H. Auden. Afterword Louise Levitas Henriksen. 1950; reprinted New York: Persea Books, 1987. \$11.95.
4. Kate Simon, *Bronx Primitive: Portraits in a Childhood*. 1982; reprinted New York: Penguin Books: The Penguin Group, 1997. \$14.00.
5. Lucy Dawidowicz, *From That Place and Time: A Memoir, 1938-1947*. Introduction by Nancy Sinkoff. 1989; reprinted New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2008. \$24.95. **[Scheduled for release October 30, 2008.]**
6. Eva Hoffman, *Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language*. 1989; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, The Penguin Group, 1990. \$15.00.
7. Vivian Gornick, *Fierce Attachments: A Memoir*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2005. \$14.00.
8. Gerda Lerner, *Fireweed: A Political Biography*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2003. \$21.95.
9. Anne Roiphe, *1185 Park Avenue: A Memoir*. New York: A Touchstone Book, Published by Simon & Schuster, 2000. \$14.95.
10. Rebecca Walker, *Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*. 2001; reprinted New York: Riverhead Books, A Division of Penguin Putnam, Inc., 2002. \$15.00.
11. Lillian Faderman, *Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004. \$19.95.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Four one-page response papers on weekly assignments posted to Discussions and Private Messages section of Sakai course web site by 7:00 P.M. of evening previous to class, two of which must be submitted by October 23rd class session.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS, CONTINUED

Thursday October 8th: 4-5 page critical paper due. Mary Antin begins her autobiography *The Promised Land* (1912) with a celebration of personal transformation: "I was born, I have lived, and I have been made over. Is it not time to write my life's story? I am just as much out of the way as if I were dead, for I am absolutely other than the person whose story I have to tell." Interview a Jewish-American woman, preferably of another generation. Ask her to talk about a moment of personal transformation in which she either came to view the world differently or in which her identity as a woman and/or as a Jew was substantially altered. At what point in her life did that moment occur? Did she realize the significance of that moment at the time that it occurred? Was the transformation reflected in a new language, whether literally or figuratively? Was this moment itself transformed by memory, that is, was its significance altered over time? Research is not required, but, if you do rely on assigned readings or outside sources for facts or opinions, such sources must be acknowledged in footnotes and bibliography. If you need help in preparing the paper, I would be happy to meet with you. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Thursday, December 8th: 8-10 page term paper due. Topic to be decided in consultation with instructor by Thursday, October 8th. Please e-mail your paper to me at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu and supply stamped self-addressed large (e.g. 9" x 13") manila envelope for return of paper, which must be submitted in hard copy at the December 8th class.

OFFICE: Ruth Adams Building 024C

TELEPHONE: 732-932-8650
E-mail: fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday: 10:00-11:30
Thursday: 1:30-3:00
and by appointment

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Except for collaborative assignments officially approved by the instructor in advance, all work a student submits must be his/her own independent effort. Students must cite properly all outside sources consulted in preparing written assignments. Students should review the university policy on Academic Integrity (see the website for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). The Writing Program maintains a website that defines and discusses plagiarism: http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/201/plagiarism_policy/. This site clarifies many issues regarding the University's policy on academic integrity. Failure to comply with this policy can result in failure of the course.

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation

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marks or by appropriate indentation and must be promptly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgement is required when material from another source is stored in print, electronic, or other medium and is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment ..." and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information which is common knowledge, such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, only materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography. Plagiarism can, in some cases, be a subtle issue. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with the faculty member. For information on proper documentation, consult Acknowledging Sources: <http://amerstudies.rutgers.edu/documents/AcknowledgingSources.pdf>, the guide prepared by the Rutgers American Studies Department, which is available on the American Studies Department web site and on the course Sakai web site.

ABSENCES:

Regular class attendance is required by Rutgers and is essential to this class. You will be allowed one unexcused absence without grade penalty. The consequences of unexcused absences are as follows:

- 1 unexcused absence = No penalty
- 2 unexcused absences = 20% grade penalty = final grade no higher than a B
- 3 unexcused absences = 30% grade penalty = final grade no higher than a C
- 4 unexcused absences = failure in the course

Excused absences are those that result from documentable family emergencies, illness, religious observance, court dates, jury service, etc., that is, situations over which you have no individual control. Please inform me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class on a regular basis.

ASSIGNMENTS:

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Response papers	15% for 4 out of 13 response papers (at least 2 must be posted by October 23 rd class meeting)
Moderation	10%
Class participation	15%
Critical paper	15%
Term Paper	45%

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In-class participation will consist of the following:

Each student must **contribute to in-class discussion every week**. Therefore, **attendance is required at every class**. Only one unexcused absence is allowed without grade penalty.

Each student will serve as part of a team of **moderators for two classes**. These students should collaborate with each other in advance and will present a **short oral introduction** to their topic of the week and **prepare questions to stimulate class discussion**.

In order to facilitate discussion all students will submit to the professor **four out of thirteen one-page e-mail response papers** that relate to the reading/film of the week. These responses – one for each section -- will be **due by 7:00 P.M. the night prior to the class meeting and must include a question suitable for in-class discussion**.

You should log onto the Discussion and Private Messages section of <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/> initially with your eden e-mail account to post such messages. You can change your log-in once you have established yourself with Sakai to reflect the e-mail account that you ordinarily use. You can reaccess the site subsequently to see what other students have posted in preparation for class discussion. If there are problems posting your response to Sakai, please e-mail that response to me directly at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu as a Microsoft Word 2007 or WordPerfect attachment.

NOTE: The response paper is not a summary of the contents of the reading. Instead, the response paper should comment on significant issues raised by the material and should use concrete textual evidence to support a clear argument.

CLASS FILM SCHEDULE:

Monday, September 8 th	<i>The Return of Sarah's Daughters</i> (1997, 56 minutes)
Monday, September 22 nd Monday, October 27 th	<i>Yudie</i> (1974, 20 minutes) <i>One of Us</i> (1999, 48 minutes)
Monday, November 3 rd	<i>Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter</i> (1994, 60 minutes)
Monday, November 24 th	<i>Miriam's Daughters Celebrate</i> (1999, 21 minutes)
Monday, December 8 th	<i>Ruthie & Connie: Every Room in the House</i> (2002, 56 minutes)

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**FILMS PLACED ON RESERVE AT MEDIA SERVICES, MUSIC LIBRARY, MABEL
SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY (CALL 732-932-9411, EXT. 34 TO BOOK MEDIA TO
INSURE AVAILABILITY AND TO CHECK MEDIA LIBRARY HOURS)**

Monday, September 29th-
Monday, October 13th

Fragments of Isabella (1989, 79 minutes)

Monday, October 13th-
Monday, October 27th

Arguing the World (1997, 107 minutes)

ASSIGNMENTS:

No. Week of:

**Reading: (all on reserve at Douglass Library
under American Studies 01:050:335:01)**

I. September 8th

Introduction

***THE RETURN OF SARAH'S DAUGHTERS*
(1997, 56 MINUTES SHOWN IN CLASS)**

II. September 15th

Helen Jacobus Apte, *Heart of a Wife: The Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman*. Edited and with essays by her grandson Marcus D. Rosenbaum. Wilmington, Delaware: SR Books, A Scholarly Resources, Inc. Imprint, 1998. About the Authors; Acknowledgments; Introduction by Marcus D. Rosenbaum: xi-xvi; Who's Who: xvii-xviii; Note on Editing: xix-xix; pp. 1-180; Epilogue by Marcus D. Rosenbaum: pp. 181-182.

III. September 22nd

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*. Introduction and notes by Werner Sollors. 1912; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, The Penguin Group, 1997. Introduction by Werner Sollors: xi-l; A Note on the Text; Editor's Acknowledgments: lix-lx; Dedication; Introduction: pp. 1-3; pp. 5-286; Acknowledgments: p. 287; Glossary: pp. 289-294; Appendix: How I Wrote *The Promised Land* by Mary Antin: pp. 295-298; Explanatory Notes: pp. 299-305.

***YUDIE* (1974, 20 MINUTES) SHOWN IN
CLASS**

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ASSIGNMENTS:

No.	Week of:	Reading: (all on reserve at Douglass Library)
IV.	September 29 th	Anzia Yezierska, <i>Red Ribbon on a White Horse</i> . Introduction by W. H. Auden. Afterword by Louise Levitas Henriksen. 1950; reprinted New York: Persea Books, 1987. Introduction by W. H. Auden: pp. 11-19; Quotation from John Hall Wheelock; pp. 25-220; Afterword by Louise Levitas Henriksen, pp. 221-228. FRAGMENT OF ISABELLA (1989, 79 MINUTES) ON RESERVE MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH-MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
V.	October 6 th THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH: CRITICAL PAPER; LAST DATE TO CONSULT ON TERM PAPER	Kate Simon, <i>Bronx Primitive: Portraits in a Childhood</i> . 1982; reprinted New York: Penguin Books: The Penguin Group, 1997. Dedication; pp. 1-179.
VI.	October 13 th	Gerda Lerner, <i>Fireweed. A Political Biography</i> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002. Dedication; Definitions of Fireweed; A Note on Usage: xiii; Introduction: pp. 1-3; I. Beginnings: 7-147; II: Becoming an American: pp. 151-216. FRAGMENT OF ISABELLA (1989, 79 MINUTES) DISCUSSED IN CLASS
VII.	October 20 th	Lerner, <i>Fireweed</i> . III: Becoming an American Radical: pp. 219-274; IV: In the Eye of the Storm: pp. 277-373; Thanks: pp. 375-377.
VIII.	October 27 th	Eva Hoffman, <i>Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language</i> . 1989; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, The Penguin Group, 1990. Dedication; Acknowledgments; pp. 1-280. ONE OF US (1999, 48 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS -- continued on page 7

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No.	Week of:	Reading: (all on reserve at Douglass Library)
VIII.	October 27 th (continued)	<i>ARGUING THE WORLD</i> (1997, 107 MINUTES) ON RESERVE MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY, MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH-MONDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
IX.	November 3 rd	Vivian Gornick, <i>Fierce Attachments: A Memoir</i> . Boston: Beacon Press, 1997. Introduction by Jonathan Lethem: iv-viii; pp. 3-204. <i>COMPLAINTS OF A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER</i> (1994, 60 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS
X.	November 10 th	Lucy Dawidowicz, <i>From That Place and Time: A Memoir, 1938-1947</i> . New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1989. Inscription. Quotation from Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> ; Preface: xiii-xvi; pp. 3-163. <i>ARGUING THE WORLD</i> (1997, 107 MINUTES) DISCUSSED IN CLASS
XI.	November 17 th	Dawidowicz, <i>From That Place and Time</i> , pp. 164-325. GUEST APPEARANCE BY PROFESSOR NANCY SINKOFF, JEWISH STUDIES AND HISTORY, TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF WHETHER A WOMAN CAN BE A NEW YORK INTELLECTUAL
XII.	November 24 th	Anne Roiphe, <i>1185 Park Avenue: A Memoir</i> . New York: A Touchstone Book, Published by Simon & Schuster, 1999. Dedication; Author's Note; pp. 1-257. <i>MIRIAM'S DAUGHTERS CELEBRATE</i> (1999, 21 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS

Leslie Fishbein
American Studies Department
F.A.S., Rutgers University

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Fall 2008
Monday: 12:35-3:35 P.M.
Ruth Adams 018

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ASSIGNMENTS:

No. Week of:

Reading: (all on reserve at Douglass Library)

XIII. December 1st

Rebecca Walker, *Black, White, and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*. 2001; reprinted New York: Riverhead Books, A Division of Penguin Putnam, Inc., 2002.

XIV. December 8th

Lillian Faderman, *Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004. Dedication; Acknowledgments; pp. 3-356.

TERM PAPER DUE

***RUTHIE & CONNIE: EVERY ROOM IN THE HOUSE* (2002, 56 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS**

Please e-mail your term paper to me at fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu and supply stamped self-addressed large (e.g. 9" x 13") manila envelope for return of paper, which must be submitted in hard copy at the December 8th class.