Jewish Feminism in the US

Antler explores the lives of more than fifty high achievers involved in major public issues of the twentieth century: immigration, social reform, political radicalism, Zionism, emergence of popular culture, professionalism, internationalism, Cold War culture and politics, feminism, and postfeminism. She shows how each woman had to confront the Jewish, American, and female aspects of her identity, and they arrived at different resolutions. Antler asserts that Jewish feminism has made it possible for many Jewish women to be both Jewish and feminist.


This website includes an online exhibit that traces Jewish women’s impact on feminism. It includes a timeline of important events from the 1963 publication of Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* to the 1999 publication of Marge Piercy’s *The Art of Blessing the Day: Poems with a Jewish Theme*. The collection focuses on the main themes of political activism, feminism and religion, and the recovery of women’s voices. The Jewish Women’s Archive, established in 1995, is interested in promoting Jewish women’s history in formats accessible to a wide audience.

Rogow examines twentieth-century social reformers and labor organizers and the fiction of Jo Sinclair. She traces developments in the 1970s including the founding of gay synagogues, networks of Jewish lesbian consciousness-raising groups, and the rise of a distinctive literature. She argues that there was an increased acceptance of gays and lesbians in congregations and rabbinical training in the 1980s, but also considerable remaining homophobia, ignorance, and ignoring of lesbians by the organized American Jewish community.

This article discusses Minyan Te, a Jewish prayer group founded in 2003 by young adults who grew up as Orthodox Jews. Minyan Tehillah marks a radical departure from Orthodox synagogues because women are allowed to lead prayers and the Torah service and to read from the holy scroll. Some women appreciate the services because it helps them to strike a balance between their Jewish, female, and modern identities.
**Topic:** Select a historical event, cultural event, or cultural production that impacted your oral history subject’s immigration or migration. You will not write a research paper for this class, but you should think of this project as practice for choosing a topic and gathering research materials.

**Objective:** As indicated in the syllabus, “Information Literacy” is one of the goals of the First Year Seminar. The purpose of this assignment, along with the scheduled library instructions (October 18 and October 20) is to teach you how to assemble a bibliography, to encourage you to feel comfortable using the library, to enable you to discover, evaluate, and use different forms of research material appropriate to the topic.

**Requirements:** “Annotated” means that your entries will include descriptive comments on your sources. These comments should summarize and evaluate the sources in three to five sentences. Use your own words; quotations are unacceptable.

The annotated bibliography must include 1 book, 1 academic journal article, 1 magazine or newspaper article, and 1 reliable web page, for a total of **four entries**. Do not list any dictionary definitions or encyclopedia articles (including Wikipedia), and do not use any of the assigned reading.

**Format:** Typed bibliography in MLA or Turabian/Chicago format listed alphabetically by author’s last name. Standard margins and font (no larger than 12-point).

**Due Date:** Tuesday, November 1 in the Assignment Dropbox on Blackboard at the beginning of class. Bibliographies received after this date will be penalized by 1/3 (one-third) letter grade. No late bibliographies will be accepted after November 8.

**Annotated bibliographies will be graded on the following criteria:**

- **Summary and evaluation of each source** – Explain the main arguments and what topics are covered. State the purpose or methods of the source.

- **Accuracy** – Include detailed, verifiable summaries of the information included in the source.

- **Reliability** – Select sources with reputable authors or web sites that contain verifiable information.

- **Relevance** – Choose sources that relate to the chosen topic.

- **Meets Requirements** – Include required number and type of entries in proper format.