

# Women's History Month

*El Camino College Library*

*March 2014*

## Essential Texts in Feminist Theory & Feminist Thought

***Backlash: The Undeclared War Against Women / Susan Faludi*** **HQ 1426 F35**

Faludi's 1991 best seller got down and dirty with all the antifeminism backlash that she asserted was still keeping women second-class citizens in the work force and in greater society in general. *Library Journal*

***The Beauty Myth / Naomi Wolf*** **HQ 1219 W65**

A valuable study, documenting societal pressures on women to conform to a standard of beauty. *Publishers Weekly*

***Big Girls Don't Cry: The Election That Changed Everything For American Women / Rebecca Traister*** **K 276 2008 T73**

Traister (Salon.com) here reflects on women's impact on the political process in 2008, the candidates, the media's sometimes sexist attention to Clinton and Palin, and voters' reactions to the candidates and campaigns. *Library Journal*

***The Dialectic Of Sex: The Case For Feminist Revolution / Shulamith Firestone*** **HQ 1426 F68**

The Dialectic of Sex was the first book of the women's liberation movement to put forth a feminist theory of politics. Book annotation

***The Female Eunuch / Germaine Greer*** **HQ 1206 G77**

Greer looks at the inherent and unalterable biological differences between men and women as well as at the profound psychological differences that result from social conditioning. Book Annotation

***Female Masculinity / Judith Halbertam*** **HQ 75.5 H33**

Halberstam (Univ. of California, San Diego) examines how society perceives masculinity differently when it is a characteristic of women, not men. *Choice*

***The Feminine Mystique / Betty Friedan*** **HQ 1426 F83**

By the founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1964, a ground-breaking book that analyzes and attacks the attempts to convince women that their place is in the home. *Booklist*

***Nancy Spero : The Work / Christopher Lyon*** **N 6537 S648 L96**

Among the most prominent women artists of the past half century, Nancy Spero (1926-2009) created a body of work of astonishing emotional range, from fierce anger directed against war and sexism, to joyful sexual release. Book annotation

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***The New Feminist Agenda: Defining The Next Revolution For Women, Work, And Family /***

**Madeleine M. Kunin**

**HD 4904.25 K86**

Kunin (former governor of Vermont; now affiliated with Univ. of Vermont) espouses major societal reforms in the US regarding the work environment and the needs of working families. *Choice*

***Nickel And Dimed: On (Not) Getting By In America / Barbara Ehrenreich***

**HD 4918 E375**

In 1998, Ehrenreich was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job--any job--can be the ticket to a better life. She left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. *Book Description*

***Outrageous Acts And Everyday Rebellions / Gloria Steinem***

**HQ 1413 S675 A36**

A collection of feminist articles and essays by Ms. Magazine editor Steinem includes her moving memoir, "Ruth's Song (Because she could not sing it)," about how she grew up in squalid poverty, caring alone for her mentally ill mother. *Booklist*

***Reading Women: How The Great Books Of Feminism Changed My Life / Stephanie Staal***

**HQ 155 S83**

Staal offers an interesting overview of feminist history and writings; however, her exploration of transformations in her life is superficial (her marriage was healed by "coming closer together through the thousands of tiny moments that make up a day"), and she learns the fairly trite lesson that "life is unpredictable, relationships are complex, and the mind cannot always rule the heart." *Publishers Weekly*

***Reviving Ophelia / Mary Pipher***

**HQ 798 P57**

Pipher reminds us of societal pressures on girls which cause them to abandon their authentic selves and accept false selves who place conformity, appearances, and pleasing others over their own sense of achievement and self-worth. *Voice of Youth Advocates*

***A Room Of One's Own / Virginia Woolf***

**N 471 W6**

In this essay, Virginia Woolf takes on the establishment, using her gift of language to dissect the world around her and give a voice to those who have none. Her message is simple: "A woman must have an income and a room of her own in order to have the freedom to create." *Book Annotation*

***The Second Sex / Simone de Beauvoir***

**HQ 1208 B35213**

Simone de Beauvoir's masterwork is a powerful analysis of the Western notion of "woman," and a groundbreaking exploration of inequality and otherness. *Book annotation*