TITLE OF PROJECT: Critical Reception to Philip Roth’s Changing Presentation of “The Jewish Mother” in Portnoy’s Complaint, The Plot Against America, and Nemesis
(Undergraduate / Graduate Student Project)

PROJECT INFORMATION
Sylvia Barack Fishman, HBI co-director and professor in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, is writing a paper for presentation at the annual conference of the Association of Judaic Studies in December 2016. In her paper she aims to analyze Philip Roth’s changing presentation of “the Jewish mother” over the course of 4 decades, focusing on three novels: Portnoy’s Complaint, The Plot Against America, and Nemesis. She will be placing her analysis into the context of changes regarding gender roles and the images of motherhood within an evolving American Jewish community as well as transformations in American culture and society.

Professor Fishman is looking for an intern who will construct a thorough annotated bibliography of the critical and communal reception of Roth’s changing presentations of the Jewish mother. Responsibilities will include library research to make an initial list of critical responses (40%), copying and organizing the responses into folders (15%), reading the responses and writing the annotated bibliography - one paragraph on each response (45%). The entire task should be completed over the course of the internship program.

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE
- Interest in the work of Philip Roth
- Ability to understand critical literary analysis
- Strong library research skills; knowledge of Brandeis library a plus
- Exceptional writing skills; ability to create clear, coherent written materials
- Ability to synthesize information and to write meaningful and accurate summaries.
- Good time management skills; ability to complete work on deadline
- Independent worker