

DR. MARTHA HIMMELFARB

Dr. Martha Himmelfarb, Class of 1970, Chair of the Department of Religion at Princeton University, is an internationally renowned scholar, author and expert in ancient Judaism and Christianity.

Dr. Himmelfarb attended Church Street and Eastview Schools before White Plains High School, where she was Editor-in-Chief of *The Orange*. She earned an AB from Barnard College, graduating magna cum laude with distinction in Greek. She also studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Himmelfarb joined the Department of Religion at Princeton as an instructor while working toward a Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Her teaching and scholarship enabled her to move steadily up the ranks at Princeton, which is widely acknowledged to have the number one department of religion not affiliated with a divinity school. Dr. Himmelfarb became a full professor in 1994 and has been department chair since 1999.

Professor Himmelfarb's scholarship focuses on the period from the beginning of the Hellenistic period (333 BCE) through the destruction of the Second Temple (70 CE), a time of crucial development of monotheistic religions. She has written two authoritative books on the apocalypses and a new book, *A Kingdom of Priests: Ancestry and Merit in Ancient Judaism* that deals with concepts of merit versus genealogy as criteria for salvation.

Dr. Himmelfarb has organized many international symposia and colloquia at Princeton and has lectured in Jerusalem, Venice and at universities throughout the U.S. She won a highly coveted fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1995.

Dr. Himmelfarb is married to sculptor and teacher Steven Weiss and they have four children.