

Israel Studies: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Dr. Avi Bareli(abareli@bgu.ac.il, 052-2326129)

The course will provide an introduction for the study of Israel from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will discuss key questions concerning the state of Israel and Israeli society involving historical, sociological, political and philosophical points of view. Students will be required to read texts concerning these questions and to write a short paper on one of them.

Subjects of discussion

1. The debate about Zionism, Nationalism and Colonialism
2. Power and Ideas in the history of Zionism, pre-state Israel and the state of Israel: The case of Labor Zionism
3. The 'Oriental Question' in Israel's first decade
4. Republicanism and Nationalism: Israel's self definition as a Jewish and as a democratic state
5. The road to the 1956 war
6. Ben-Gurion's Political thought

References

1. Gershon Shafir, Land, Labor and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, University of California Press, Berkeley 1996, pp. 1-17, 187-211.
2. Avi Bareli, 'Forgetting Europe: Perspectives on the Debate about Zionism and Colonialism', The Journal of Israeli History, vol. 20, no. 2/3, Summer/Autumn 2001, pp. 99-120. Also in French: 'Oublier l'Europe – Points de vue concernant le de'bat sur le sionisme et le colonialisme, Tuvia Friling (ed.), *Critique Du Post-Sionisme: Re'ponse aux "nouveaux historiens" israel'liens*, Paris: E'ditions in Press, 2004, pp. 341-368; also in Hebrew: 'לשכוח את אירופה – נקודות ראות לזיכור על הציונות והקולוניאליזם', טוביה פרילינג (עורך), *תשובה לעמית פוסט-ציוני*, תל-אביב: ידיעות אחרונות, 2003, עמ' 294-317.
3. Yonathan Shapiro, The Formative Years of the Israeli Labor Party, Sage Publications, London 1976, pp. 1-7, 254-263.
4. יוסף גורני, אחדות-העבודה, 1930-1919, הקיבוץ המאוחד תשל"ג, עמ' 324-331.
5. Bernard Lewis, The Jews of Islam, Princeton University Press 1984, pp. 154-225
6. Sammy Smooha, Israel: Pluralism and Conflict, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London 1978, pp. 151-395

7. Avi Bareli, 'Mapai and the Oriental Jewish Question in the Early Years of the State', *Jewish Social Studies: History, Culture, Society* n.s. 16, no.1 (Fall 2009), pp. 54-84. (also in Hebrew)
8. Alexander Yakobson and Amnon Rubinstein, *Israel and the Family of Nations*, Routledge, London and New York 2009, pp. 97-140
9. Gadi Taub, *What is Zionism?* (a draft)

גדי טאוב, מהי הציונות, ידיעות אחרונות: ספרי חמד, 2010

10. Avi Bareli, Nir Kedar, *Israeli Republicanism*, The Israel Democracy Institute, 2011, Abstract. Full version in Hebrew:

אבי בראלי, ניר קידר, ממלכתיות ישראלית, המכון הישראלי לדמוקרטיה, 2011

11. 'The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel', the National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, 2006
12. Selwyn Ilan Troen & Moshe Shemesh (eds.), *The SDez-Sinai Crisis 1956*, Colombia University Press, New York, 180-194