Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Sociology of Knowledge

Level and status: 4 credit points, M.A. elective seminar

Lecturer: Prof Uri Ram

Course description:
The course addresses the social, cultural and political context of knowledge and science production, circulation and application. It includes aspects of sociology of science and sociology of intellectuals and emphasis is put on the "social sciences". Various approaches are studied -- historical (German), functionalist and constructivist (Anglo-American), deconstructivist (French) and cases and controversies are examined.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings, read and prepare the material and the assignments (10% of grade), offer class presentations (10%), present paper proposal and submit on time the final written work.

Grade: final written work (80% of grade)

Schedule and reading list:

1. The basic questions of knowledge and science in Marx, Weber & Durkheim
2. Central Europe between the wars (Lucaks, Mannheim, Popper, Horkeinmer and Adorno)
3. The 1950s to the 1970s in Anglo-American sociology (Merton's sociology of science, Kuhn's paradigms, Barnes and Bloor "strong program")
5. Recent approaches: P. Bourdieu, J. Habermas, B. Latour, D, Haraway
6. Exemplary recent controversies

Selections from the following list are specified in class:


Harding, Sandra. 1998. *Is Science Multicultural?*. Indiana UP.


