The Israeli Economy: Syllabus, Fall 2019

Tel Aviv University International

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This course is suitable for all students but those who have completed an introductory course in economics will find it easier. Those who have not should be prepared to add supplementary reading.

The history of the pre-independence and modern economy. The role of population growth and immigration; problems of inflation and stabilization; the balance of payments; sectoral developments. The Histadrut, defense spending; the economics of the peace process and Israel’s integration into the world economy. Recent socio-economic developments including the problems of the Arab and Ultra-orthodox communities.

Grading System: Attendance and class presentation 30%, final paper 70%

Course outline and readings

1. The Pre-State Economy
   (Ben Porat: chap 1; Halevi and Klinov-Malul: chap 2)

2. Economic Development 1948-1973
   (Halevi and Klinov-Malul: chaps 1,3,4; Patinkin: chaps 1,2; Rivlin: chap 1)

3. The Economic Crisis of the 1980s and the 1985 Stabilization Program
   (Ben Porath: chaps 14,15,17; Rivlin: chap 2, Bruno: chaps 2,4,5)

4. The Defense Burden
   (Ben Porath: chap 8; Rivlin: chap 3)

5. Industry, Agriculture and Services
   (Rivlin: chap 4; Bank of Israel: Annual Reports)

6. The Balance of Payments, Foreign Debt, Exchange Rate Policies
   (Ben Porath: chap 14-17; Rivlin: chap 5)

7. The Labor Movement and the Histadrut
   (Halevi and Klinov-Malul: chapter 5; Rivlin: chapter 7)

8. The Budget and the Public Sector
   (Ben Porat: chap 9; Rivlin: chap 8, Ben Bassat chap 1)
9. The Peace Process, Immigration in the 1990s and Israel’s Integration in the World Economy
   (Bank of Israel: Annual Reports)

10. The Current Issues
   (Rosenberg; websites: mof.gov.il; bankisrael.gov.il; http://taubcenter.org.il/)

**Readings**

**Introduction to economics:**
Rudiger Dornbusch, Stanley Fischer and Richard Startz,
Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7.1, 7.2, 12.1, 18.4 (not in 7th edition)

**Israeli Economy:**
Ben Bassat, Avi. ed.

Ben Porat, Yoram. ed.

Bruno, Michael

Halevi Nadav. and Klinov Malul Ruth.
*The Economic Development of Israel* (New York: Praeger, 1968)

Patinkin, Don.
*The Israeli Economy: The First Decade* (Jerusalem: Falk Institute, 1967)

Rivlin, Paul.
*The Israeli Economy* (Boulder: Westview, 1992),
Two Middle Eastern Inflations: Israel and Turkey, 1980-2001 in
*British Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vo. 30 no. 2, November 2003

Rivlin, Paul.
*The Israeli Economy from the Foundation of the State through the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Rosenberg David

Zilberfarb, B. in *Israel Affairs*
Vol. 1. no.1, Autumn 1994, The Effects of the Peace Process on the Israeli Economy
Vol. 5. no.1, Autumn 1996, The Israeli Economy in the 1990s
Vol. 12, no. 1, April 2006, From Boom to Bust: The Israeli Economy 1990-2003

Websites
cbs.gov.il
mof.gov.il
bankisrael.gov.il (Annual Report)
http://taubcenter.org.il/

My book “The Israeli Economy from the Foundation of the State through the 21st Century” is a useful introduction.