

Boston College
Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages
States and Minorities in the Middle East
SL150/SC150
Spring 2009

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Description:

This course seeks to address an important but often neglected topic in Middle Eastern Studies; the relationship between centralizing states and homogenizing Arab national ideas on one hand, and an assortment of minority populations and intellectual currents committed to highlighting and maintaining distinct non-Arab identities in the Middle East. This is a general survey course, which, within the context of the modern Middle East state system, will examine such topics as the status of minorities, minority narratives, minority rights, and the relationship between minority groups and national-states.

Course Requirements and Organization:

This course will be divided into 14 weekly topics, each consisting of 2 weekly lectures and one weekly discussion session during which both the lectures and the related reading assignments will be discussed. Evaluation/Grades are broken down as follows:

- 1- **Active participation in class discussions; keeping up with reading assignments; regular blogging (5 blogs minimum per semester); weekly reaction papers (due on Fridays); regular office visits (minimum of 2 per semester) will account for 25% of your grade.**
- 2- **Two short essays (two pages each, double space, due on February 9th and March 16th, each worth 10%; total 20%)**
- 3- **A five-page paper due May 2nd (20%)**
- 4- **One short oral presentation (15-20 minutes), (5%)**
- 5- **Three pop-quizzes (10% each; total 30%)**

READING MATERIALS:

Required Texts:

Ephraim Karsh: *Empires of the Sand*
Martin Kramer: *Arab Awakening and Islamic Revival*
Milton J. Esman and Itamar Rabinovich, eds., *Ethnicity, Pluralism and the State in the Middle East*, Cornell, 1988.
Theodor Hanf, *Coexistence in Wartime Lebanon*, I.B. Tauris, 1993

Bernard Lewis *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, Schocken, 2001
Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East*; McFarland, 1991 (or a newer
edition)
(Course Reader) **WebCT.**

Recommended Texts:

- Amatzia Baram,** *Mesopotamian Identity in Ba'ithi Iraq*, in *Middle Eastern Studies*,
Vol. 19 (4), 1984, pp. 426-449.
- Bat Ye'or,** *The Dhimmi; Jews and Christians Under Islam*, Farleigh
Dickinson, 1985.
- Ofra Bengio and Gabriel Ben-Dor,** eds., *Minorities and the State in the Arab World*,
Lynne Rienner, 1998.
- Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis,** eds., *Christians and Jews in the
Ottoman Empire*, 2 Vols., Holmes and Meier, 1982.
- Kenneth Cragg,** *The Arab Christian*, Westminster/John Knox, 1991.
- John Donohue and John Esposito,** eds., *Islam in Transition; Muslim
Perspectives*, Oxford University Press, 1982. (Ahmad Lutfi Al-
Sayyid's *Egyptianness*, pp. 70-72, and Taha Husayn's *The Future
of Culture in Egypt*, pp. 73-77.)
- Kail Ellis,** ed., *The Vatican, Islam, and the Middle East*, Syracuse, 1987.
- Nader Entessar,** *Kurdish Ethnonationalism*, Lynne Rienner, 1992.
- Albert Hourani,** *Minorities in the Arab World*, Oxford, 1947.
- Asher Kaufman,** *Reviving Phoenicia; The Search for Identity in Lebanon*, I.B.
Tauris, 2004.
- David Kretzmer,** *The Legal Status of the Arabs in Israel*, Westview, 1990.
- Avigdor Levy,** *The Jews of the Ottoman Empire*, Darwin, 1994.
- Bernard Lewis,** *The Map of the Middle East: A guide for the Perplexed*, in *The
American Scholar*, Vol. 58 (1) (Winter 1988-89), pp. 19-38
The Middle East: A Brief History of the last 2,000 Years. Scribner,
1996.
- Matti Moosa,** *Extremist Shiites*, Syracuse, 1988.
- Norman Stillman,** *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, Jewish Publication
Society, 1991.
- P.J. Vatikiotis,** *Islam and the State*, Routledge, 1987.
- Antonie Wessels,** *Arab and Christian?: Christians in the Middle East*, Kampen:
Pharos, 1995.
- M.E. Yapp,** *The Near East Since the First World War: A History to 1995*,
Longman, Second Edition, 1996.

***Recommended Print Media, Periodicals, Reference Works, Internet Sources, and other
Additional Readings:***

The Christian Science Monitor
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal

The Washington Post
Encyclopedia of Islam
International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (New York)
Middle East Journal (Washington, D.C.)
Middle East Studies (London)

<http://beirut2bayside.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.juancole.com/>
http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_ID=10&article_ID=7391&categ_id=5
<http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/L/Joshua.M.Landis-1/syriablog/>
<http://www.meforum.org/article/130>
<http://www.geocities.com/martinkramerorg/ArabNationalism.htm>

Syllabus

Week of January 12th: Introduction: What is a minority?

Bernard Lewis, "The Political Map of the Middle East: A guide for the Perplexed," *The American Scholar*, Vol. 58 (1) (winter 1988-89), pp. 19-38, [Course Reader, pp. 2-17.]

Lewis, *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, pp. 3-24

Martin Kramer, *Arab Awakening and Islamic Revival*, pp. 19-51

Kramer, pp. 103-123.

Efraim Karsh, *Empires of the Sand*, pp. 171-221 (Peruse)

Week of January 19th: States, Territorial Identity and Communal Cleavages.

P.J. Vatikiotis' *Islam and the State*, Routledge, 1987, pp. 19-57 [Course Reader, pp. 19-30.]

Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid and Taha Husayn in John Donohue and John Esposito, eds., *Islam in Transition* (Oxford, 1982), pp. 70-77 [Course Reader, pp. 46-53.]

Itamar Rabinovich, *The War for Lebanon, 1970-1985* (rev. ed., Cornell, 1985), pp. 17-33 [Course Reader, pp. 60-69.]

Chapters 1 and 2 in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 3-31. [Course Reader, pp. 116-137.]

Hourani, Chapters 1 and 2 [Course Reader, pp. 71-83.]

Ali Salem's "The Odd Man and the Sea" [Course Reader, pp. 54-59.] (Peruse)

B. Lewis' *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, pp. 25-56.

Karsh, pp. 222-242 (Peruse)

Week of January 26th: States, Territorial Identity and Communal Cleavages.

Hanna Batatu, "Some Observations on the social Roots of Syria's Ruling Group and the Causes of its Dominance", *Middle East Journal*, vol. 35 (3) (1981), pp. 331-334. [Course Reader, pp. 153-162.]

Amatzia Baram, "Mesopotamian Identity in Ba'thi Iraq", *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 19 (4) (1983), pp. 426-455 [Course Reader, pp. 163-185.]

Chapter 3 by Karpat in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 35-53. [Course Reader, pp. 138-151.]

Kanan Makiya "A Model for post-Saddam Iraq", [Course Reader, pp. 186-194]

Edward Said, "Misinformation About Iraq", [Course Reader, pp. 195-198]

B. Lewis' *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, pp. 57-104

Karsh, pp. 247-313

Week of February 2nd: Israel—The "Jewish State" and the Arab Minority.

Kretzmer, pp. 77-179 [Course Reader, pp. 200-210.]

The chapter by Haidar and Rekhess in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 95-139. [Course Reader, pp. 211-229.]

B. Lewis' *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*, pp. 105-142.

Week of February 9th: Religious Fundamentalism, Minorities and the State.

Vatikiotis, pp. 58-99 [Course Reader, pp. 31-45.]

Articles by Brumberg and Burgat in Kramer (*The Islamism Debate*), pp. 11-48.

Kramer, pp. 141-159.

Week of February 16th: Egypt and the Copts.

Nisan, Introduction and pp. 115-133

Hourani, Chapter 5 [**Course Reader, pp. 96-104.**]

Chapter 11 (by Kilada, *Christian-Muslim Relations in Egypt*) in Ellis, pp. 243-263
[**Course Reader, pp. 230-243.**]

Cragg, pp. 170-203, *Perspectives for Egypt* [**Course Reader, pp. 244-266.**]

Ephraim Karsh, *Empires of the Sand*, pp. 27-68

Week of February 23rd: Lebanon and the Maronites

Nisan, pp. 170-192

Chapters 9 (by Rabinovich) and 10 (by Hanf) in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 155-184
[**Course Reader, pp. 267-291**]

Hourani, chpts. 8-9 [**Course Reader, pp. 105-115.**]

Week of March 9th: The Future of Christianity within Islam

Chapter 9 (by Haddad) in Ellis, pp. 201-218 [**Course Reader, pp. 292-308.**]

Nisan, pp. 134-165.

Kramer, pp. 265-285.

Week of March 16th: The Druze in and Between Lebanon, Syria and Israel

Nisan, pp. 79-97

Chapter 11 (by Firro) in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 185-197 [**Course Reader, pp. 309-318**]

Betts, pp. 69-119 *The Growth and Gradual Decline of Druze Power in Greater Syria, 1516-1914* [**Course Reader, pp. 319-343.**]

Week of March 23rd: Syria and the Alawis

Nisan, pp. 98-112.

Kramer, pp. 189-208.

Moosa's *The Nusayris*, pp. 267-310

Week of April 30th: The Kurds in and Between Turkey, Iraq and Iran

Nisan, pp. 27-44

Chapters 13 (by Menashri) and 14 (by MacDonald) in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 215-252. (Peruse)

Weeks of April 6th and 13th: The Jews of the Middle East

Nisan, pp. 213-253

Norman Stillman, *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*, pp. 65-180 (Peruse)

Weeks of April 20th and 27th: Conclusions

Chapter 5 (by Ben-Dor) and "Conclusion" in Esman and Rabinovich, pp. 71-92 and 271-287.

Nisan, re-read the Introduction (pp. 1-24) and pp. 254-267 (the Conclusion)