



School of International Service

Ethnic and Religious Identities in the M.E.: Kurds and other Minorities
SIS 511.011

Prof. Edmund Ghareeb
M. 8:10-10:40pm
Fall 2006

Phone: (202) 885-3977

This lecture-discussion seminar will seek to identify and examine the origins, evolution and role of key ethnic and religious minorities in the Middle East. The seminar will focus on the growing assertiveness and search for identity of these minorities and their impact on socio-political issues in the country they inhabit. Attention will be given to the centrality of, or limitation on the role of minorities in national, regional and international politics.

The major requirements of this course are the writing of one twenty page research paper and one to ten page analytical paper. Students will be required to make oral presentation on their research and on some assigned readings. Grades will be based on the papers, the presentations, and on class participation.

Required Readings

- ┌ P. Kreyenbrock & C. Allison, *Kurdish Culture and Identity*
- ┌ M. Esman & J. Rabinovich, *Ethnicity, Pluralism and State in the Middle East.*
- ┌ A Maalouf, *In the Name of Identity: Violence and the Need to Belong.*
- ┌ Denise Natali, *The Kurds and the State*
- ┌ M. Khadduri & E. Ghareeb, *War in the Gulf*

Recommended Readings (on Reserve):

- ┌ H. Barakat, *The Arab World*
- ┌ O. Bengio, & G. Ben-Dor, *Minorities and the State in the Arab World*
- ┌ J. Rothschild, *Ethno -Politics: A Conceptual Framework*
- ┌ E. Ghareeb, *The Kurdish Question in Iraq*
- ┌ D. McDowall, *The Kurds*
- ┌ M. Brett & E. Fentress, *The Berbers*
- ┌ B. Carter, *The Copts in Egyptian Politics*
- ┌ E. Ghareeb & Dougherty, *Historical Dictionary of Iraq*

Discussion topics:

- 1 - Ethnicity Religion and the State in the Middle East.
- 2 - Majorities, Minorities and Sects
- 3-6 Kurdish Nationalism in the M.E.
- 7-9 The Religious Minorities
- 10 - Pluralism and Sectarianism in Lebanon
- 11 - The Berbers of North Africa
Identity and Loyalty in the Sudan
- 12 - M.E Minorities in International Politics
- 13- The Impact of Ethnicity and Religion on the Nation State
- 14 - The Future between Separation and Integration

Discussion Topic Readings

Week 1

Maalouf, The entire book (easy read).
Gurr, Chapters 1-5.

Week 2

Esman and Rabinovich, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5.
Ben-Dor and Benjio, Chapters 3-6.

Week 3 through 6

McDowall, The Kurds.
(Not to be confused with the History of the Kurds)
Kreynbroek and Allison, Chapters 2, 3, 5, 6.
Ghareeb, Chapters 1, 5, 7.
Khadduri and Ghareeb, Chapters 2, 3, 12

Week 7 -8

Esman and Rabinovich, Chapters 2, 5, 11.
Ben-Dor and Benjio, Chapters 3, 8, 9.
A. Hourani, Minorities in the Arab World. Chapters 1-2.
R. McLaurin "The Political Role of Minority Groups in the Middle East."
Chapters 5, 8.

Week 9 through 10

McLaurin, Chapter 7.
Barakat, Chapter 7.
Hourani, Chapter 9.
Ben-Dor and Benjio, Chapter 6.
W. Phares "Lebanese Christian Nationalism." Chapters 8-12.

Week 11

Esman and Rabinovich, Chapter 15.

Ben-Dor and Benjio, Chapters 2, 4.

Week 12-13

Phares, Chapter 14.

Esman and Rabinovich, Chapter 2 and 16.

Richard R. Norton "The Future of Civil Society in the Middle East." Middle East Journal 47 No. 2(Spring 1993).

Ben-Dor and Benjio, Chapter 10.

T. Gurr, "Peoples against the State." International Studies Quarterly, Volume 38 No. 3. (September 1994).

S. Ibrahim, Management of Ethnic Issues in the Arab World. Cairo Al-Ahram Center For Strategic Studies, 1995.