

**Centre for West Asian Studies
School of International Studies
M.A. International Relations-West Asian Studies**

Course No.	:	WA506
Course Title	:	Minorities in West Asia and North Africa
Course Teacher	:	P. R. Kumaraswamy
Credits	:	4
Instruction Method	:	Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials
Evaluation Method	:	Class Participation, Assignment and End-Semester Examination
Course Duration	:	One Semester
Contact Hours	:	04 per week

Course Objectives: The course looks at the ethnic, religious, national, sectarian and linguistic minorities of the WANA region of Arab and non-Arab and Islamic and non-Islamic countries. It seeks to understand the origin, evolution and development of the minorities, their social, political and legal status and their challenges in modern states. Besides classroom lectures and interactions, the course includes outreach activities with places of worship of the religious minorities present in significant numbers in the WANA region.

Learning Outcome: The student critically understands the experience of minority-ness rather than the deployment of the terminology in terms of exclusion, disempowerment with consequent political and social outcomes.

Course Outline

Unit I. Introduction: Problems of definition; Classification of minorities: ethnic, linguistic, religious, and sectarian groups; Evolution of Minorities in West Asia and North Africa; Indigenous groups; Diaspora Communities and expatriate population.

Unit II. Statehood and minorities: Nation building process and impact on minorities; Political systems and minorities; Religion and minorities: Minorities in Judaism, Christianity and Islam; Issues of Race and ethnicity; Armed conflicts and minorities.

Unit III. Status of Minorities: Constitutional provisions and legal rights; Political, religious and social freedom and challenges; Arab spring and minorities; Progressive changes: inclusive national identity, recognition of pluralism and diversity, social reforms.

Unit IV. Country-Specific Developments: Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Morocco; Oman; Palestine; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; Tunisia; Türkiye; UAE; and Yemen.

Readings

Unit I:

Armanios, Febe. "Islam: Sunnis and Shiites." Congressional Research Service. Washington, DC: CRS Report for Congress, February 23, 2004.

Chaszar, Edward. *International Protection of Minorities in the Middle East: A Status Report*. 1986.

Fink, Carole. "Minority Rights as an International Question." *Contemporary European History* 9, no. 3 (November 2000): 385–400.

Fox, Jonathan. "Are Religious Minorities More Militant than Other Ethnic Minorities?" *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* 28, no. 1 (2003): 91–114. <https://doi.org/10.1177/030437540302800104>.

Gurr, T.R. and Harff, B. *Ethnic Conflict in World Politics* (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1994)

Hourani, Albert Habib(1947). *Minorities in the Arab World*. London: Oxford University Press

Hovsepian, Nubar. "Competing Identities in the Arab World." *Journal of International Affairs* 49, no. 1 (1995): 3–24.

Hurd, Elizabeth Shakman. *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Kumaraswamy, P.R. "Problems of studying minorities in the Middle East" *Alternatives* (Istanbul), vol.2, no.2, Spring 2003, pp.244-64

Nisan, Mordechai (2002). *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression*. 2d ed. Jefferson, NC: McFarland

Unit II:

Anjum, Ovamir. "Dhimmi Citizens: Non-Muslims in the New Islamist Discourse." *ReOrient* 2, no. 1 (2016): 31–50. <https://doi.org/10.13169/reorient.2.1.0031>.

Belge, Ceren, and Ekrem Karakoç. "Minorities in the Middle East: Ethnicity, Religion, and Support for Authoritarianism." *Political Research Quarterly* 68, no. 2 (2015): 280–92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912915580627>.

Bengio, Ofra, and Gabriel Ben-Dor, eds(1999). *Minorities and the State in the Arab World*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Esman, Milton and Rabinovich, Itamar *Ethnicity, Pluralism and the State in the Middle East*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991)

Kumaraswamy, P R. "Islam and Minorities: Need for a Liberal Framework." *Mediterranean Quarterly* 18, no. 3 (Summer 2007): 94–109.

Pförtl, Eva, and Will Kymlicka. "Minority Politics in the Middle East and North Africa: The Prospects for Transformative Change." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 38, no. 14 (2015): 2489–98. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2015.1061132>.

Shatzmiller, Maya(2005). *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies*. Montreal and Kingston, NY: McGill-Queen's University Press

Unit III:

Castellino, Joshua, and Kathleen A. Cavanaugh(2013). *Minority Rights in the Middle East*. Oxford University Press.

Chaliand, Gerard, *A People without a Country: The Kurds and Kurdistan*, (New York: Olive Branch Press, 1993)

Doorn-Harder, Nelly van. "Minorities in Islam; Muslims as Minorities: Minorities in Islam; Muslims as Minorities." *The Muslim World* 104, no. 3 (2014): 236–39. <https://doi.org/10.1111/muwo.12053>.

Fentress, Elizabeth. "Romanizing the Berbers*." *Past & Present* 190, no. 1 (2006): 3–33. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gti026>.

Flamini, Roland. "Forced Exodus: Christians in the Middle East." *World Affairs* 176, no. 4 (2013): 65–71.

Ghaussy, Saadollah. *The Role Of Minorities In The Middle East: The Case Of Kurdish Question*. 1986.

Kedourie, Elie. "Minorities and Majorities in the Middle East." *European Journal of Sociology* 25, no. 2 (1984): 276–82. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003975600004264>.

Parker, K. Scott, and Tony E. Nasrallah. *Middle Eastern Minorities and the Arab Spring: Identity and Community in the Twenty-First Century*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2017.

Zabad, Ibrahim (2017). *Middle Eastern minorities: The impact of the Arab Spring*. Routledge.

Unit IV:

Ajami, Fouad. *The Vanished Imam: Musa al Sadr and the Shia of Lebanon*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi. "The Shia of Saudi Arabia: A Minority in Search of Cultural Authenticity." *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 25, no. 1 (May 1998): 121–38.

Andrews, Peter Alford, ed, *Ethnic Groups in the Republic of Turkey*, (Wiesbaden: Reichart, 1989)

Astourian, Stephan. "The Armenian Genocide: An Interpretation." *The History Teacher* 23, no. 2 (1990): 111–60. <https://doi.org/10.2307/494919>.

Brand, Laurie A. "Palestinians and Jordanians: A Crisis of Identity." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 24, no. 4 (1995): 46–61.

Chaker, Salem. "Berber Challenge in Algeria: The State of the Question." *Race, Gender & Class* 8, no. 3 (2001): 135–56.

Erman, Tahire, and Emrah Göker. "Alevi Politics in Contemporary Turkey." *Middle Eastern Studies* 36, no. 4 (2000): 99–118.

Faksh, Mahmud A. "The Alawi Community of Syria: A New Dominant Political Force." *Middle Eastern Studies* 20, no. 2 (1984): 133–53.

Falah, Ghazi. "How Israel Controls the Bedouin in Israel." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 14, no. 2 (1985): 35–51.

Firro, Kais. *Political Behaviour Of The Druze as a Minority in the Middle East - A Historical Perspective*. 1986.

Fuller, Graham E. "The Fate of the Kurds." *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 2 (1993): 108–21. <https://doi.org/10.2307/20045529>

Gross, Joan E., and David A. McMurray. "Berber Origins and the Politics of Ethnicity in Colonial North African Discourse." *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 16, no. 2 (1993): 39–57. <https://doi.org/10.1525/pol.1993.16.2.39>

ICG. "The Shite Question in Saudi Arabia." Middle East Report. Brussels: ICG, September 19, 2005.

Jaspal, Rusi. "Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism in Iran." *Israel Affairs* 19, no. 2 (2013): 231–58.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13537121.2013.778085>

Jiryis, Sabri, *The Arabs in Israel*, (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1976)

Kramer, Gudrun. "Anti-Semitism in the Muslim World: A Critical Review." *Die Welt Des Islams, New Series* 46, no. 3 (2006): 243–76

Kumaraswamy P.R. *Political Legitimacy of the Minorities: Israeli Arabs and the 1996 Knesset Elections*, (*The Emirates Occasional Paper No. 20*), (Abu Dhabi: Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies Research), 1998, pp.61.

Landau, Jacob *The Arab Minorities in Israel, 1967-91: Political Aspects*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993)

Landau, Jacob, *The Arabs in Israel: A Political Study*, (London: Oxford University Press, 1969)

Lewis, Bernard *The Jews of Islam*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984).

Lewis, Bernard. *Faith and Power: Religion and Politics in the Middle East*. Oxford ; New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Lewis, Bernard. *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East*. 1st American ed. New York: SchockenBooks : Distributed by Pantheon Books, 1999.

Mahmood, Saba. "Religious Freedom, the Minority Question, and Geopolitics in the Middle East." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 54, no. 2 (2012): 418–46.

Masters, Bruce. *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Arab World: The Roots of Sectarianism*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.

McLaurin, Ronald De, *The Political Role of Minority Groups In The Middle East*, (New York: Praeger, 1979)

Roughi, Ramzi. "The Berbers of the Arabs." *Studia Islamica* 106, no. 1 (2011): 49–76.
<https://doi.org/10.1163/19585705-12341252>.

Rowe, S. Paul ed.(2019).*Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East*.

Saracoglu, Cenk. *Kurds of Modern Turkey: Migration, Neoliberalism and Exclusion in Turkish Society*. London: I B Tauris, 2011.

Stausberg, Michael. "From Power of Powerlessness: Zoroastrianism in Iranian History." In *Religious Minorities in the Middle East: Domination, Self-Empowerment, Accommodation*, edited by Anh Nga Longva and Anne Sofie Roald, 171–93. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

Additional readings:

Amnesty International Reports

Human Rights Watch Reports

Minority Rights Group Reports

US Commission on International Religious Freedom. *The Religion-State Relationship and the Right to Freedom Religion or Belief: A Comparative Textual Analysis of the Constitutions of Majority Muslim Countries and Other OIC Members*. Washington, DC: USCIRF, 2012.

US Religious Freedom Reports