

Short Syllabus



Course Title Credits

Arab Society in Israel: Minorities, Religions and Social Structure

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Lecturer

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Short Description

Arab society in Israel is not homogeneous but rather a mosaic made up of a variety of social and religious elements holding different, sometimes contradictory worldviews and modus operandi. It comprises various groups which are distinct from one another in terms of religion (Muslim, Christian, and Druze), lifestyle (urban and rural dwellers, as well as Bedouin nomads), and social values (modernity and liberalism vs. traditionalism and conservatism).

The nationalist cleavage between Jews and Arabs in Israel, reinforced by the dilemmas of identity experienced by Palestinian-Arab citizens who live in a self-defined Jewish state, draws much public and academic attention, while internal developments within Arab society are overlooked and often remain unnoticed. These developments are strongly connected to external political and social changes that have taken place in the Middle East in general, and in the Levant region in particular during the past several decades.

Arab residents of Israel are affected by internal foci of attraction such as religious affiliation, sectarianism, and clan and family ties, which have proved to be even stronger than their instrumental connection to the Israeli state system and their relationship with the larger Israeli society.

This course aims to deepen our knowledge of the heterogeneous structure of Arab society, and to provide an in-depth understanding of social and structural processes that have taken place in it, focusing on the last two decades.

The course includes in-class discussions based on reading academic materials and examining primary sources, as well as a field trip to the Arab sector.

Final grade components

Midterm paper: 20% (600 – 700 words) Final paper: 70% (1,250 – 1,500 words) Participation in in-class discussions: 10%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*

Academic Conduct







Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam. Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.*

Additional requirements

* See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details