

Ethnic and Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East:

This course deals with the making of the ethnic and religious minorities in the modern Middle East in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Through a reading of the most recent titles on the topic, the course aims to bring a historical approach to the making of the minorities in the region. Modernization, colonization, and the emergence of a nation-state system in the Middle East with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire will set the context for our analysis. Themes include but not limited to inter-communal relations (conflict, coexistence, and conversion) in the Ottoman Empire; Armenian, Kurdish, and Arab nationalisms in the late imperial era; the emergence of the nation-state nationalisms and the persecution of the minorities in the new nation-states; the emergence and the transformation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; ethnic dynamics within Israel; and Shi'a and Sunni relations.