Elie Rekhess  
History 392/395-0-20

**ARABS IN A JEWISH STATE: BETWEEN INTEGRATION AND ALIENATION**

Day/Time: MW 3:30-4:50  
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Maximum Enrollment: 15

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The 1948 war created a unique situation: A Palestinian-Arab minority amidst the Jewish state of Israel. Thus, Israel was established as a Jewish state but not exclusively so. The Palestinian Arabs who became Israeli citizens remained nationally and religiously bound to the outside Arab world. This necessarily resulted in a sharp crisis of loyalties, the Arab community being torn between its Israeli citizenship and its Arab national identity. Today the Arab minority constitutes nearly 20 percent of Israel's population. It has undergone intensive processes of change, generally referred to as: Israelization, Palestinization and Islamization. The seminar will focus on minority-majority relations in Israel, with special emphasis on three areas: first, the effect of modernization on the more traditional Arab society; second, the dilemma of national identity (the interrelation between the Israeli, Arab, Palestinian and Muslim/Christian components, the impact of the PLO and Hamas), political participation (Knesset) and the struggle of the Arab minority for equality, and third, the developments following the Oslo Accords, the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and the Intifada (the October 2000 Uprising; the discourse over the "Jewish and Democratic" nature of Israel; the search for alternative models - "State of its Citizens", separatism, autonomy).

**AREA OF CONCENTRATION:** Middle Eastern Studies/History/Israel/Jewish Studies

**TEACHING METHOD:** Seminar

**EVALUATION METHOD:** 392: class presentation, midterm, final; 395 class presentation, 15-26 pg. research paper

**GRADING BASIS:** ANC

**READING LIST:**  
Materials provided on Canvas

**INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:** Elie Rekhess is the Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies at Northwestern University and Associate Director for Israel Studies within the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. Concurrently, Professor Rekhess is a Senior Research Fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. Until his early retirement in 2010, he was a faculty member at Tel Aviv University, where he founded and directed the Program on Jewish-Arab Cooperation in Israel sponsored by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (1995-2010). A leading historian of the contemporary Middle East, his fields of expertise include the Israeli-Arab conflict, Palestinian politics, Islamic resurgence, the Arab Minority in Israel and Jewish-Arab relations. He has authored and edited more than 13 books, the most recent of which is entitled Muslim Minorities in Non-Muslim Majority States (2011). Professor Rekhess served as a Strategic Advisor to Prime Minister Ehud Barak and as an Advisor to the Ministerial Committee on the Arabs in Israel.