

Expert on Syria speaks to War College class

Col. Robert Balcavage, Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute

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Dr. Faten Ghosn, University of Arizona guest lecturer to The US Army War College's Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, presents her lecture: "Syria - From Secularism to Takfiri Ideology" to members of USAWC Class of 2014.

Dr. Ghosn's presentation focused on the domestic, regional and international factors that have facilitated the rise and expansion of

the Takfiri ideology: (1) how the Takfiriyeen were able to hijack the protests early on, and (2) why the situation in Syria is more comparable to Libya and Yemen and not Egypt and Tunisia. This lecture was particularly relevant to USAWC students challenged to understand the roots of instability in a relevant, strategically important crisis area - a topic, whose message is commonly distorted or diluted by 24-hour media reporting.

Dr. Ghosn received her BA and MA from the American University of Beirut, and her Ph.D. from the Pennsylvania State University. Her research and teaching interests focus on the interaction of adversaries, be they conflictual or cooperative. In particular, she has been interested in how such actors handle their disagreements. A common theme running throughout her professional interests is the importance of the choice of strategy that is picked by the adversaries to manage their conflicts, and how such strategies and policies are implemented. Her articles have appeared in the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Journal of Human Rights*, *International Negotiation*, *International Studies Quarterly*, as well as *Middle East Journal*.

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