

The Wilmette Institute

A Center of Learning sponsored by the

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

The Wilmette Institute was established in 1995 to offer educational programs to raise up a new generation of diverse, knowledgeable, articulate teachers and administrators of the Bahá'í Faith by imparting knowledge; developing various skills, particularly teaching skills; and fostering Bahá'í identity. It offers two programs:

1. Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization

A Four-Year Study Program

2. Studies in the Bahá'í Faith

(described on reverse)

Distance-Learning Courses on Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, world religions, and more

1. The Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization Program

A four-year program of systematic study of all aspects of the Bahá'í Faith, including:

Annual two-week residential sessions in Wilmette, where students attend classes, participate in service projects, and build a Bahá'í community with other participants.

Five months per year of home study, where students complete learning projects of their choosing, including firesides, deepenings, and other efforts to apply their learning.

An opportunity to take the distance-learning courses of the Studies in the Bahá'í Faith program for free, thereby specializing the student's education.

World Religions and Philosophies and Bahá'í Theology (summer 2000)

The Development of the Individual and the Creation of Strong Marriages and Bahá'í Families (summer 2001)

The Formation and Governance of Bahá'í Communities (summer 2002)

The Bahá'í Perspective on Global Issues: Carrying Forward an Ever-Advancing Civilization (summer 2003)

Bahá'í History (partially covered every year)

The Bahá'í Writings (treated thematically each year)

The program includes eight study modules:

Research and Communications Skills
(one or two skills are covered each
year)

Teaching the Bahá'í Faith (yearly
workshops)

The program is open to anyone 18 years or older with a high school diploma or equivalent. Tuition is \$700/year excluding meals, lodging, and textbooks.

The Spiritual Foundations program provides well-organized, formal, systematic classes that help students gain "spiritual insights, the knowledge, and the skills needed to carry out the many tasks of accelerated expansion and consolidation." (Universal House of Justice, letter of December 26, 1995)

Home study begins May 1, 2000
Next residential session: July 29-August 13, 2000
Final home study projects: August 15-Sept. 30, 2000

The Wilmette Institute, 536 Sheridan Rd., Wilmette, IL 60091-2849; Phone: 847-733-3415; FAX: 847-733-3563; 24-hour information line: 847-733-3595; E-mail: info@wilmetteinstitute.org; Website: <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>

Registration open now through April 1, 2000

What Do the Students Say?

“The Wilmette Institute is one of the most incredible experiences I have had as a Bahá'í and I highly encourage each of you and your loved ones to consider joining the Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization program, participate in a distance-learning course or become involved in supporting the institute in some way. Some of you have already heard me rave about the Wilmette Institute, but I must say again what a faculty member stated during our residency program that ‘the Wilmette Institute is like 20 years of Bahá'í summer school in three weeks.’”
(Shelley Rastall, first year student)

2. Studies in the Bahá'í Faith Distance-Learning Courses

A growing series of formally organized and systematic courses on specific topics for home study.

Courses are taken by e-mail, mail, the web, and telephone. No residency is required.

Certificates of completion are given at the end of each course.

Courses are designed for the majority of adult Bahá'ís.

Students use home-study materials to prepare learning projects, such as giving firesides, deepenings, local classes, and artistic and writing projects.

Mentors review homework and give students suggestions for improvement.

Courses include an e-mail listserv for discussion of course material with faculty and fellow students.

Periodic conference calls allow students and faculty to interact directly.

Student homework can be posted anonymously on a website, so that all students can share knowledge and ideas.

Exploring Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation invites students to study Bahá'u'lláh's tablets in chronological order, allowing them to compare and contrast themes He stressed at different times in His ministry. Students receive a collation of information available on

some 125 tablets that are matched with English translations and a series of learning projects to reinforce one's study. The course on the Kitáb-i-Aqdas involves reading the Most Holy Book and related texts both chronologically and topically.

Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, 1868–77
\$225
4/1–9/30/2000

Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, 1877-92
\$225
12/1/2000–5/31/2001

World Religions: An Integrated Approach introduces the origins, founders, teachings, practices, and followers of the various world religions. The faiths are studied, not as isolated phenomena, but as integral parts of the religion of God. Each course is designed to foster **deepening** (understanding the basics of the other religion and, by comparison, the Bahá'í Faith) and **dialogue** (interacting with people of other religions and explaining the Faith to them).

Zoroastrianism \$100
3/1/00–4/30/00

Islam \$150
6/1/00–8/30/00

Exploring the Ministry and Writings of Shoghi Effendi is a new series of courses about the life and writings of Shoghi Effendi.

Advent of Divine Justice
\$100
3/1/00-4/30/00

World Order of Bahá'u'lláh \$150
7/1/00-9/30/00

Exploring the Ministry, Writings, and Talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá A series of courses on the Master as Exemplar and Interpreter, to begin in 2001.

An Evolving Community: The History and Development of the Bahá'í Faith A series of four courses on Bahá'í history, to begin in 2001.

Courses on various aspect of the Bahá'í teachings are planned, 2001-2004.

Learning that Fits Individual Needs

Studies in the Bahá'í Faith courses can be taken at the **introductory level** (a basic course that will help students teach the Faith more effectively), the **intermediate level** (for more in-depth study), or the **advanced level** (equivalent to graduate-level study) allowing students to adjust the course to match their experience. For undergraduate or graduate credit, please contact the Wilmette Institute.

The Institute is not accredited but may be able to help you obtain college credit.

What Do the Students Say?

"I cannot express the immense gratitude I have for all those involved with this Institute. You have given me the gift of the writings. Yes, they were there before, but I really didn't understand their true power until you showed me the unity and progression of these Gems so that I now

have a deeper, more rounded understanding of this Faith." (Dana McMurry)

I am a new believer, and have found this class [Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, 1853-63] immensely helpful in forming a solid foundation for both conceptual understanding and loving commitment [head and heart]. . . . with the assistance of this class, I am finding that I do comprehend the Writings at both the deeper level of intended meaning, and at the level of metaphorical or culturally specific language. Specifically, the Islamic references are no longer mysterious." (Kathryn Brown)

Call, write, or e-mail for more information, or visit us on the web at <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>