

December 2014 eNewsletter

Contributions to Public Discourse

The American Academy of Religion Conference: An Opportunity to Speak Publicly about the Baha'i Faith

Nine Baha'is (perhaps a record number) attended the AAR conference, opened a booth offering Baha'i literature, and hosted a very successful Baha'i Studies program. To read more and to see how to attend next year, [Click here to continue>>](#)



Stephen Lambden

News

The Badi` (Baha'i) Calendar: An Introduction

Moojan Momen has written a concise history of the Badi` (Baha'i) calendar and an explanation of the issues in the calendar that the Universal House of Justice resolved in a recent letter. [Click here to continue>>](#)

"A Baha'i Perspective" Radio Show and Podcast: A Resource for Interviews with Wilmette Institute Faculty and Others

Listen to professional interviews with Wilmette Institute faculty (and many others) and learn about their upbringings and education and how they apply the Baha'i teachings in their lives. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Student Projects: Building a Library

The Wilmette Institute is happy to launch a library of student projects. Browse through the ones that have recently been uploaded

December 2014 - February 2015 Courses

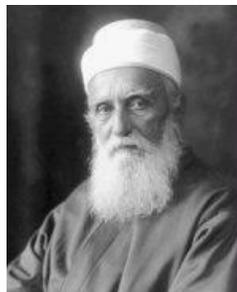
A window into understanding 'Abdu'l-Baha, our Perfect Exemplar

'Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry

One in a series of courses exploring the life, ministry, talks, and writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)
Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 1, 2014 - January 18, 2015)



'Abdu'l-Baha, the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and the Perfect Exemplar for humankind, is unique in religious history. While He is not a Manifestation of God, He is closer in station to a Manifestation than to the station of humanity. Drawing on statements by 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi, as well as writings by many Baha'is, we will explore 'Abdu'l-Baha's life, station, roles, titles, writings, talks, travels, accomplishments, relationship to Baha'u'llah, and impact on others. We will

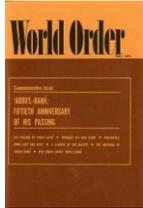
examine 'Abdu'l-Baha's first five decades, 1844-92; His station as the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and His early years as Head of the Faith, 1892-1910; His travels to and talks in Europe and North America, 1911-13, and His guidance of the Baha'is in those areas; World War I, war and peace, and the Tablets of the Divine Plan, 1914-21; His Will and Testament and His passing in 1921; and selected topics about 'Abdu'l-Baha (His station; teachings about governance; philosophy and theology; and evolution).

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

and look for new ones in the future, using the link in the Wilmette Institute links below.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

World Order Magazine's "Topical Index" Now Available on the Wilmette Institute Website



The Wilmette Institute is also happy to launch a link called "Reference Materials." The first item being made available is *World Order* magazine's "Topical Index of Articles, Editorials, and Reviews," which contains many pieces on issues of

broad social concern.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

The Wilmette Institute Exceeds Fund-Raising Goal with Help from Online Contributions

To see the amazing amount the Wilmette Institute has raised in three months for scholarships--and to see how to contribute online (for the first time ever!),

[Click here to continue>>](#)

The Wilmette Institute Grows in First Half of Fiscal Year

In the six months between May 1 and October 31, 2014, the Wilmette Institute offered 19 courses with a registration of 562 learners. The schedule for the remaining half of the year (November 2014-April 2015) includes 19 courses, for a total of 38 courses for the year. For the first time the Institute will probably exceed 1,000 learners for the fiscal year.

Save These Dates!

An updated list of 2014-15 calls for papers, academic conferences, and webinars.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

Social Media

Wilmette Institute Facebook and Twitter Discounts

Follow the Wilmette Institute on Facebook and Twitter! Doing so could get you a discount on your next Wilmette Institute course. The Institute is offering discount codes for 10 or even 20 percent for selected courses via those two social media.

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on twitter

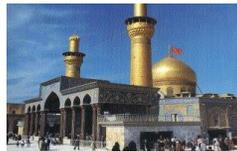
Explore the origin of the Shaykhi movement and the teachings of Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kazim, forerunners of the Bab

Introduction to Shaykhism

Another in a series of courses exploring world religions and their interconnections

Lead Faculty: [Peter Terry](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 15, 2014 - February 1, 2015)



In this introduction to Shaykhism we will explore the history and teachings of a community whose founders and ideas were essential to the rise of the Babi Faith. In two units we will read and discuss biographies of Shaykh Ahmad-i-Ahsa'i and of Siyyid Kazim-i-Rashti. In

additional units we will examine their teachings, focusing particularly on their concept of God. Throughout the course, we will explore the relationship of Shaykhism to Shi'ite Islam and to the Babi Faith as well as the role its founders played as forerunners of and preparation for the Bab. Many of the readings will come from the brilliant work of the French scholar A. L. M. Nicholas, available in English translation or summary, but we will also use the works of other Shaykhi scholars.

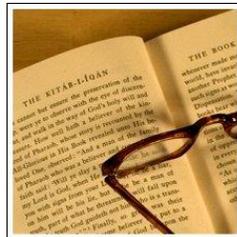
[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A popular course returns: learn new tools for reading the Baha'i writings more efficiently

Studying the Baha'i Writings: Accessing the Meaning of Revelation

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 7 - February 24, 2015)



Studying the Baha'i Writings: Accessing the Meaning of Revelation introduces learners to a systematic method of studying any Baha'i scripture by using a number of literary and exegetical tools. We will study selected passages from Baha'i scripture by looking through four "windows" into the meaning of divine wisdom: Language; Theme; Structure; and the Work as a Whole.

Through learning to read carefully, with attention to literal and

Find us on 

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Civilization](#)
['Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)
[U. S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)

Mark Your Calendar

March 1 - April 18, 2015
[Climate Change](#)

March 10 - May 5, 2015
[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)

March 15 - May 2, 2015
[The Mashriqu'l-Adhkar: The First Hundred Years](#)

March 20 - June 15, 2015
[Economics and the Baha'i Faith](#)

April 1 - May 29, 2015
[Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings](#)

April 10 - June 7, 2015
[Creating a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation: Strengthening Your Marriage](#)

April 15 - June 3, 2015
[Bahá'í Spirituality: Pathway to Mental Clarity, Inner Calm, Awareness of God, and Physical Health](#)

April 20 - June 12, 2015
[Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers: The Bab and the Babi Religion, 1844-53](#)

May - December 2015
Course Schedule

figurative language, theme, structure, and the place of the work in the author's writings, we will develop the skills and the confidence to approach any Baha'i text in a systematic manner. We will also look through five other "windows" into divine wisdom: the Oeuvre (Body of Works), the Biography, the Times, the Literary Tradition, and the World Scriptural Tradition.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Learn how careful preparation will help ensure the preservation of your marriage

Building Unity toward Marriage: Preparing for Marriage

A course in a series for individuals and couples preparing for marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)
Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#), [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 15 - March 4, 2015)



Building Unity toward Marriage is designed to increase your knowledge, insights, and skills as you prepare for a unified marriage that includes service to each other and service to others. In a world where commitment and marriage are often devalued, you can increase your confidence and capacity for effectively building unity as you move toward marriage. Studying the Baha'i teachings, considering the input of marriage experts, and discussing your experiences and learning will enrich your preparation for marriage. This course will engage you in discussions about marriage as a divine institution and the foundation for world unity; creating a harmonious, spiritually based marriage; uniting a couple's families; intercultural marriage in the context of a global human family; and practicing gender equality in a marriage. This course is intended primarily for single individuals and couples in a serious relationship and for those who want to learn more about preparing for the divinely ordained institution of marriage. Consider forming a local study group and learning together.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Study major themes in Baha'u'llah's teaching in His own anthology of His writings

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for May through December 2015. The schedule is still partial and tentative.

May 1 - June 17, 2015
Prayers and Meditations

May 10 - July 11, 2015
Religious Myths and Visions of America

May 20 - June 26, 2015
Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue

June 1 - August 31, 2015
The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

June 10 - July 29, 2015
Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

June 15 - August 3, 2015
Dynamic Consultation

July 1 - August 18, 2015
Gems of Divine Mysteries and Other Early Tablets by Baha'u'llah

July 6 - August 24, 2015
Becoming a Couple: Preparing for Marriage

August 15 - October 2, 2015
Baha'i History, 1863-2015

September 1 - October 19, 2015
Practicing the Arts

September 7 - October 25, 2015
Two Peacemakers: Baha'u'llah and Deganawida

September 10 - October 29, 2015
Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue

September 15 - November 15, 2015
Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind

September 27 - November 14, 2015
Handling Some Complex Subjects: Strengthening Your Marriage

October 1 - November 18, 2015
World Federation

October 7 - November 24, 2015
The Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees

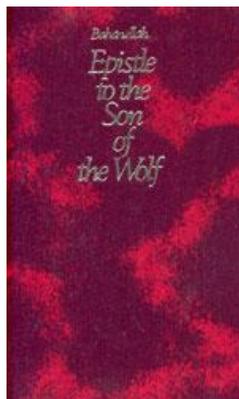
October 10 - November 28, 2015
Introduction to the Kitab-i-Iqan

October 15 - December 9, 2015
The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life

Part of a series of courses exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)
Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 20 - March 16, 2015)



In this course we will explore *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, Bahá'u'lláh's last major work, which is a single letter containing His own anthology of His writings. Reading the book slowly over a period of six weeks, we will examine major themes of Bahá'u'lláh's revelation: God as the source of His revelation; Who Bahá'u'lláh is; why He came; proofs of His station; His general teachings; the sufferings He endured; humanity's responses to His revelation; and accounts of martyrs that illustrate the transforming power of the Bahá'í Faith. Revealed for an enemy of the Bahá'í Faith, Shaykh Muhammad-Taqi (surnamed "Son of the

Wolf"), the book warns him about the consequences of his persecution of the Faith. Containing as it does Bahá'u'lláh's quotations from His own revelation, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf* provides an excellent summary of themes He considered important to understanding the Bahá'í Faith.

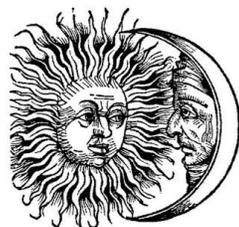
[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A new course that will help you understand the spiritual implications of the changes in the Baha'i calendar in 2015

[The Badi` \(Baha'i\) Calendar: Reshaping Our Material, Social, and Spiritual Reality](#)

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)
Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Duration of course: Five weeks (February 1 - March 7, 2015)



The Baha'i Faith has a unique calendar of 19 months of 19 days each, plus 4 or 5 days of Ayyam-i-Ha to bring the length of the year up to a full solar cycle. Through this calendar, "sacred moments are distinguished, humanity's place in time and space are reimaged, and the rhythm of life recast." The Universal House of Justice, in a recent letter, has called "upon the Baha'is of the East and

West to adopt . . . the provisions that will unite them in the common implementation of the Badi` calendar." The House of

October 20 - December 9, 2015
The Life of Baha'u'llah

November 1 - December 19, 2015
'Abdu'l-Baha in America

November 10 - December 29, 2015
Exploring the New Testament

November 15, 2015 - January 2, 2016
Century of Light

November 20, 2015 - January 7, 2016
Science and Religion

December 1, 2015 - January 18, 2016
The Secret of Divine Civilization

December 10, 2015 - January 27, 2016
One Common Faith

December 15 - February 2, 2016
Exploring the Qur'an

Justice has also fixed the start of the year on the first day of spring as it occurs in Tehran. In **Understanding the Badi` (Baha'i) Calendar** we will consider the purpose and nature of calendars in general, the organization of the Baha'i calendar (created by the Bab and called the Badi` calendar), the spiritual significance of the names of "the periods and cycles, months and days" in the calendar, and the purpose and timing of Baha'i Holy Days. We will also compare the Baha'i calendar to the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic calendars.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Learn about the relationship between the Baha'i Faith and many eternal human questions

[The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy](#)

One in a series of courses on Baha'i theology and philosophy

Lead Faculty: [Ian Kluge](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 10 - March 30, 2015)



In this course on the Baha'i Faith and philosophy, we will explore the relationship between the Baha'i teachings and many eternal human questions, such as metaphysics (the system of principles underlying a particular study or subject), religion and spirituality, epistemology (how we know something), ethics, social philosophy, aesthetics and self-expression, and the philosophy of law, education, politics, love, and humanity.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Deepen your insights into Judaism and its holy books

[Exploring the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament](#)

One in a series of courses providing an integrated approach to understanding the writings of the world's religions

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)
Faculty: [Peter Terry](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 15 - March 30, 2015)



The Hebrew Bible (called the Old Testament by Christians) is a collection of writings sacred to Jews and Christians. . .

In **Exploring the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament** we will survey the Hebrew Bible's major books (including selections from the Pentateuch, the earlier and later prophets, the Psalms, and other writings) in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. We will also compare the Hebrew Bible with Baha'i scripture, paying particular

attention to passages in the Hebrew Bible that have been "unsealed" (authoritatively interpreted) by the Baha'i revelation. Studying the Hebrew Bible in the light of the Baha'i writings aims to confirm one's faith and to provide opportunities for sharing the Baha'i revelation with others.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A biennial opportunity to study three animating charters of the Baha'i Faith

[The Charters of the Faith: the Tablet of Carmel, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, and the Will and Testament of `Abdu'l-Baha](#)

One in a series of courses on the writings of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Barney Leith](#), [Robert Wilson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 20 - April 10, 2015)



In this course we will study three "Charters" of the Baha'i Faith identified by Shoghi Effendi: Baha'u'llah's Tablet of Carmel and `Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament and Tablets of the Divine Plan. We will read and discuss the full texts of these three charters, supplementing our reading with stories, photographs, and other materials and seeking to gain a deeper understanding of their significance

and their application in our own lives. We will examine the "three distinct processes" that Shoghi Effendi states these three charters set in motion, "the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Baha'i

world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order" (*Messages to the Baha'i World*, p. 84). The course will conclude with a discussion about the Hands of the Cause of God and the role they played between Shoghi Effendi's death in 1957 and the election of the Universal House of Justice in 1963 and with the role that individuals play in protecting and expanding the Faith.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

ABOUT US

The Wilmette Institute offers quality online courses on the Baha'i Faith. It is committed to engaging a broad and diverse international community of learners in deep study of the Faith and to fostering love for study of the Faith. The Wilmette Institute was established in January 1995 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

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