

February 2017 eNewsletter

News about Upcoming Courses, Webinars, Web Talks, Conferences, Learners' Actions, and Much More



News, Webinars, Conferences, 2017 Courses

Courses for Next Three Months

February - April 2017

Wilmette Institute News

February 12 Web Talk: Greg Dahl on "Globalization and Current Events: A Baha'i Perspective"



Considering the events unfolding in the United States, Europe, and other parts of the globe, the Wilmette Institute's February Web Talk could not be more timely. On February 12 Greg Dahl will speak on "Globalization and Current Events: A Baha'i Perspective." [READ>>](#)

Closed Captioning and Subtitles on YouTube Web Talks

New to Wilmette Institute Web Talks is the option of selecting closed captioning and subtitles. Plans are to work backward and eventually provide cc/subtitles for all Web Talks going back to January 2015. If you can help with correcting the cc/subtitles, let us know. [READ>>](#)

A Three-Part Series on "The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an" Expands 2017 Web Talks to Twelve

The number of Wilmette Institute Web Talks has grown to twelve with the addition of a series of three talks



Study the New Testament to prepare yourself for elevated conversations with Christians

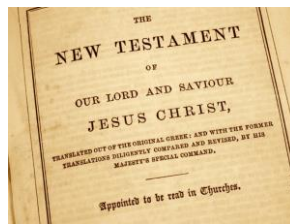
Exploring the New Testament

One in a series of courses on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (February 1 - March 28, 2017)



The Christian New Testament is a collection of chronicles and letters that pertain to the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, known as Christ. Composed by numerous writers, the works were accepted as a sacred collection in the third and fourth Christian centuries. In **Exploring the New Testament**, we will study the New Testament's major books in the light of progressive revelation and in their historical context. We will cover the Gospels; writings attributed to James, Jude, Paul, and Peter; the Book of Revelation; and specific themes in the New Testament. We will also briefly examine the vast Christian literature that did not become part of the approved "canon" now known as the New Testament. Our study of the New Testament is for the purposes of deepening and dialogue--that is, for understanding the basics of Christianity as a divinely revealed religion (and, by comparison, the Baha'i Faith) and for learning how to share the perspective of the Baha'i Faith with a variety of Christians in an informed and respectful manner.

[Watch the video](#)

on "The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an," each talk with a different theme. You will want to add the series to your calendar. [READ>>](#)

Find Help in Web Talks for Deepenings, Firesides, Elevated Conversations, Reflection on the Creative Word

The Wilmette Institute now has 22 Web Talks from which you can choose for a variety of purposes: deepening (personal or group), firesides, preparation for elevated conversations, and reflecting deeply on the Creative Word. [READ>>](#)

New Wilmette Institute Directions: Statistics for 2016 and Challenges for 2017

Statistics for 2016 show the number of Wilmette Institute courses and the number of learners up, and the Institute's new courses and webinars drawing new groups of students. Also, new courses are making an appearance in 2017, and new initiatives are expanding its educational offerings. [READ>>](#)



Two New Deepening Videos Available

Two videos on the writings of Baha'u'llah and Shoghi Effendi are now available on the Wilmette Institute's YouTube channel. They will be used as introductions to courses on the writings of Baha'u'llah and Shoghi Effendi, but you can find other uses for them as

well. [READ>>](#)

Fundraising Goal

Great news! The Wilmette Institute has reached--and exceeded--its fundraising goal for 2017-18. We now have in hand \$58,415.18 with which we can offer more scholarships than we had anticipated for students in the United States and around the world. The amazing thing is that our goal was \$55,000, and contributions are still coming in. You can still be part of our fundraising. Click [here](#) for a Contribution Form and instructions for U.S. Baha'is about making online contributions.

Contributions to Public Discourse

Four Webinars Presented by Parliament of World Religions for UN's 2017 World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7

To celebrate [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#), register at the Parliament of World Religions website for four seminars: **Feb. 1**, "A More Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World"; **Feb. 2**, "The Next Act: Interfaith Commitments to Climate Action"; **Feb. 6**, "The Dignity of Women Across the World's Religions"; **Feb. 7**, "Still Standing with

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

NEW COURSE

Prepare for the 2017 and 2019 anniversaries of the births of the Bab and Baha'u'llah

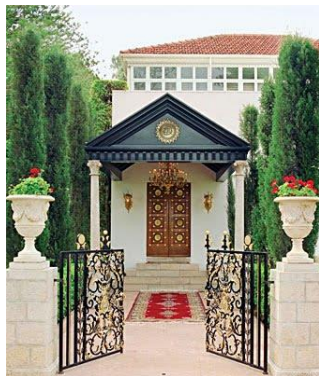
The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story

Another in a series of courses on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Druzelle Cederquist](#)

Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 7 - March 27, 2017)



In **The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story**, we will delve into the dramatic story at the heart of the Holy Anniversary years 2017 and 2019 as the Baha'i world prepares to celebrate the births of Baha'u'llah and the Bab. From Shiraz to Tabriz, from the affluent courtyards of Tehran to the prison-city of Acre, *The Story of Baha'u'llah: Promised One of All Religions*, the text for the course, brings to life the story of the Twin Manifestations at the origin of the Baha'i Faith: the Bab ("the Gate") and Baha'u'llah ("the Glory of God"), each with a distinct but connected mission. Together their revelations are intended for a humanity about to enter a new evolutionary stage--the maturity of the human race. The story unfolds

in two parts. *Part One: The Dawn* introduces Baha'u'llah in Tehran and interweaves events in the life of the Bab and His principal disciples, basic facts about Islam, and millennial expectations of Christians. *Part Two: The Sun in Its Splendor* recounts the dramatic events of life in exile for Baha'u'llah and His family, together with highlights of His writings and the emerging significance of 'Abdu'l-Baha. Throughout our study, references to world events and well-known American figures add context. We will also discuss some basic guidance about storytelling so that in a supportive environment you can explore and practice sharing these stories yourself, whether in a conversation with a friend or in a more formal setting. There are no hard storytelling requirements; the joy is in learning how simple it can be.

[Watch the video](#)

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

Learn how to understand Islam in the way 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi encouraged us to do

Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

Another course in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Gebhardt](#)

Standing Rock."

Living Responsibly Making Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer: Do a Home Energy Audit!

"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers."--'Abdu'l-Baha

This month's tip for living responsibly is making an energy audit of your home to make sure that it is energy efficient and to lessen your personal contribution to global warming. You can also revisit last month's tip, all courtesy of Christine Muller, lead faculty for our **Climate Change** course. [READ>>](#)



important and influential religions and to prepare for discussing it with Christian and Muslim friends and neighbors.

[Watch the video](#)

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

Learners in Action

What I Learned: Margaret Zambrano and The Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Read about the new things a Baha'i from California learned in the course **The Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Baha**; how new perspectives have helped in "this acrimonious time"; and how the course information is helping her plan a study class on Ruhi Book 8.1 [READ>>](#)

What I Learned: Carolyn Jennings and Native American Religion and Spirituality



"Ah-ha!" realizations, a community presentation, a dinner-for-eight presentation, a talk with a friend knowledgeable about Native beliefs, and reading and sharing two books about Native spiritual reality and Native science and spirituality--

all learnings and actions from one course. [READ>>](#)

NEW COURSE

Study the Hands of the Cause of God for role models for your contributions to the Five Year Plan

The Hands of the Cause of God: Paths of Service

One in a series of courses on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Brent Poirier](#)

Faculty: [Barron Harper](#)

Duration of course: Five weeks (February 22 - March 28, 2017)



The course on **The Hands of the Cause of God: Paths of Service** will focus on services they rendered with the aim of giving learners the courage, confidence, and strength to help them accomplish their personal goals of service to the Baha'i Faith and to help win the goals of the Five Year Plan ending in 2021. We will study passages from the Baha'i writings, extracts from Ruhi materials, and stories about

the struggles of the Hands of the Cause and their successes. We will supplement our study with photographs of the Hands and with audio and video recordings. Optional live call-in video conferences will provide opportunities for discussing the materials.

[Watch the video](#)

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

News

Association for Baha'i Studies: Making Important Changes

The Association for Baha'i Studies is making three important changes: its *Journal of Baha'i Studies* is going online (though hard copies will be available); membership fees are being discontinued; and registration fees for conferences will be the same for all. For details, [READ>>](#)

Association for Baha'i Studies: Call for Proposals for Annual Conference

ABS has issued a [call for proposals](#) for breakout sessions for its annual conference to be held in

Learn how to add "spiritually enriching" perspectives to meaningful conversations about the state of the world

Grove in Orange County, California, USA, August 10-13, 2017. Topics may be on any subject of Baha'i scholarship. The deadline for proposal is April 1, 2017.

Association for Baha'i Studies: Call for Nominations for Awards for Baha'i Scholarship

The Association for Baha'i Studies is calling for nominations for two awards for excellence in Baha'i scholarship. One award is for the ABS Book Award. The second is the ABS Thesis Award. The deadline of nominations is March 15, 2017. For information on how to nominate someone and what documentation is required, [click here](#).

The Best Religious Building: The Baha'i Temple by Hariri Pontarini, in Santiago

The Baha'i House of Worship in Santiago, Chile, having come to fruition after thirteen years, is described in three paragraphs with a link to an article by Noah Richler published in March/April 2016 in Azure, along with spectacular photographs of the Temple. [READ>>](#)

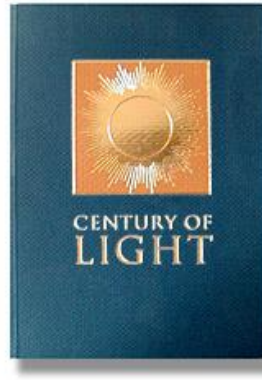


Century of Light

One in a series on writings by the Baha'i World Center

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Robert Wilson](#)



Duration of course: Six weeks (March 1 - April 11, 2017)

'Abdu'l-Baha referred to the twentieth century as the "century of light" while also forecasting terrible trials for humanity and events of great consequence for humanity's future. In 2001 the Universal House of Justice released an historical study of the century, noting that between 1900 and 2000 "our world underwent changes," mostly little understood, "far more profound than any in its preceding history" and, at the same time, the Baha'i Faith emerged from obscurity, "demonstrating on a global scale the unifying power with which its Divine origin has endowed it." In **Century of Light** we will review, in the context of the Baha'i teachings, the two processes of the disintegration of an old order and the emergence of a new order and will examine the relationship between them. Our aim will be to tap

into a perspective that is "spiritually enriching" and also "of practical help in sharing with others the challenging implications of the Revelation brought by Baha'u'llah."

[Watch the video](#)

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

A must for prospective and current health-care professionals: spiritual and practical underpinnings

Health Care and Social Action

Another course in a series on aspects of a global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Babak Etemad](#)

Faculty: [Stephen Karnik](#), [John Safapour](#)

Duration of course: Nine weeks (March 7 - May 8, 2017)



Health Care and Social Action, presented by Health for Humanity and the Wilmette Institute, will examine existing models of health and wellness and explore concepts in the Baha'i writings that might contribute to these models. Beginning with a review of definitions of health and wellness by the World Health Organization and others, we will explore selected readings, attempting to identify goals for which we can strive when seeking health for individuals and

society. Then we will examine research and readings on happiness and its interface with health and wellness. Finally, we will conclude with the hypothesis that the Baha'i teachings speak uniquely to health, wellness, and happiness and that an organized approach to discourse and action is timely and necessary within the Five Year Plan

Web Talks/Webinars on World Interfaith Harmony; Globalization; Race and Class; The Artistry of the Bab; Three Aspects of the Qur'an; Economics; The Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God; Relationships; and More

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 1-7, 2017

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 1, 2017
Four speakers on "A More Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World" (First in World Interfaith Harmony Week series)

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 2, 2017
Four speakers on "The Next Act: Interfaith Commitments to Climate Change" (Second in World Interfaith Harmony Week series)

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 6, 2017
Eight speakers on "The Dignity of Women Across the World's Religions" (Third in World Interfaith Harmony Week series)

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 7, 2017
Four speakers on "Still Standing with Standing Rock" (Fourth in World Interfaith Harmony Week series)

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Feb. 12, 2017
Greg Dahl
"Globalization and Current Events--A Baha'i Perspective"

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Feb. 13, 2017
"Understanding Race and Class in the 2016 Election": Two Speakers
Dr. Matthew W. Hughey
"Make America White Again? The Racial Reasoning of American Nationalism"
Dr. Paula Ioanide
"The Spiritual Degradation of White America in the Age of Trump"

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Feb. 15, 2017
Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham
"Secessionism, Violence, and Nonviolence"

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / Feb. 16, 2017
Todd Lawson
"The Artistry of the Bab: Literary Dimensions of the Bab's Revelation"

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Mar. 1, 2017
"Structural Racism & Youth Nonviolence": Two Speakers
Dr. Valerie Maholmes
"Concentrated Disadvantage and Youth Violence"
Dr. Lauren Abramson
"Justice as Healing and Learning: Addressing Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System through Restorative Justice"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Mar. 12, 2017
Houshmand Badee
"Is There a Baha'i Economic System?"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / April 9, 2017
Todd Lawson
"The Qur'an, The First Book in Arabic"
(First in "The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an" Series)

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / Apr. 11, 2017
Victoria Talwar
"Reflections from Baha'i Writings and Psychological Science on the Pivotal Role of Trust in Our Lives"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Apr. 16, 2017
Todd Lawson
"The Qur'an in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and the Rásh"

and beyond. This course is ideal for students, health-care professionals, and others seeking an opportunity for discourse and action in the health-care field. It is not a course on health and healing for those interested in health subjects.

[Watch the video](#)

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

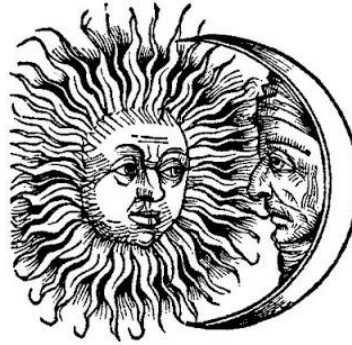
Find out more about the Badi' calendar that is reshaping our reality

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

One in a series of courses on Baha'i community and administration

Lead Faculty: [Nicola Daniels](#)
Faculty: [Mark Lutness](#)

Duration of course: Six weeks (March 10 - April 20, 2017)



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 reimagined, and the rhythm of life recast." The Universal House of Justice, in a letter dated July 10, 2014, 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 Justice has also fixed the start of the year on the first day of spring as it occurs in Tehran. In **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 how anyone (artist or not) can enhance core activities and life in general with art

[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)

A course in a series on the arts

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)
Faculty: [Peggy Caton](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 15 - May 3, 2017)

(Second in "The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an" Series)

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Apr. 23, 2017

Todd Lawson

"The Qur'anic Epic and the Creation of Humanity"
(Third in "The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an" Series)

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / May 14, 2017

Jena Khodadad

"Zikrullah Khadem: Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / June 11, 2017

Michael Penn

"A Philosophy of Mind Grounded in Relationships: A Baha'i-Inspired Perspective"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Jul. 16, 2017

Augusto Lopez-Claros

"The Emergence of Global Institutions"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Aug. 20, 2017

Susan Maneck

"Time and the Containment of Evil: The Zoroastrian Cosmology"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Oct. 29, 2017

Paul Hanley

"Eleven"

Conferences on Our Place in the Natural World; Harnessing Diversity in the Business World; the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah; Religions

[Artists & Scholars Symposium](#) / Feb. 17-19, 2017

Theme: "Our Place in the Natural World"

Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy, AZ, USA

[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#) / May 4-7, 2017

ebbf's 27th International Learning Event

"Understanding and Harnessing Diversity"

Geneva, Switzerland

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / May 25-28, 2017

"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah"

(English & Persian)

Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA



creativity to enhance our lives, our communities, the Baha'i Faith, and the future; and how to develop a serviceable language about the arts that enables us to integrate the arts more fully into Feasts, Holy Days (particularly the upcoming bicentennials of the Twin Anniversaries), core activities, commemorations, and so on and to include more people in art making and appreciation of the arts.

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

Study aspects of economic life based on spiritual principles that will advance the prosperity of humankind

[Economics and the Baha'i Faith](#)

Another in a series of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Mary Fish](#)

Faculty: [Hooshmand Badee](#), [James West](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 22 - May 9, 2017)



In **Economics and the Baha'i Faith** we will examine the guiding principles in the Baha'i authoritative texts that relate to economics and the betterment of society. The Baha'i Faith does not provide an economic system, but its spiritual and ethical values have much to say about the material aspects of life and the organization of society. We will review the world's economic conditions in light of recent letters from Baha'i institutions and assessments by Baha'i and other experts and consider the implications of the moral and spiritual teachings of the Faith on Baha'i communities and wider society. Topics covered in the course

will include Baha'i perspectives on wealth creation and distribution, economic justice, spiritual solutions to economic problems, the elimination of poverty, the market economy, the work ethic, globalization, and advancement toward the prosperity of humankind.

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

Explore how to build skills that will help you balance home life and service to the Baha'i Faith

[Creating Marriage Well-Being from](#)

[`Irfan Colloquia](#) / June 28-July 4, 2017
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah"
(Persian)
Centre for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

[`Irfan Colloquia](#) / July 5-9, 2017
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah"
(English)
Centre for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

[`Irfan Colloquia](#) / July 20-23, 2017
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah"
(German)
Tambach Seminar Center, Tambach, Germany

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / Aug. 10-13, 2017
See website for reservations, hotel & travel information, and registration.
Deadline for presentations: April 1, 2017 (see article in this issue)
Hyatt Regency Orange County, California USA

[`Irfan Colloquia](#) / October 5-8, 2017
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah"
(English & Persian)
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison MI, USA

[American Academy of Religions](#) / Nov. 18-21, 2017
Boston , Massachusetts, USA

Wilmette Institute Links

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

Social Media Links

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.

[Wilmette Institute: YouTube Channel](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Pinterest](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Google +](#)
[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

the Beginning

Yet another course in a series on the individual, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)
Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#), [Kelly Monjabez](#), [Riaz Mostaghim](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 31 - May 18, 2017)



It is fun and challenging to start and establish a marriage on a firm foundation. In **Creating Marriage Well-Being from the Beginning**, we invite couples in the first five years of marriage (others are welcome too, including engaged couples) to strengthen their experience of the divine institution of marriage. Baha'u'llah refers to marriage as a "fortress for well-being and salvation." Couples will have opportunities to deepen their friendship,

expand communication and consultation skills, enhance spiritual and physical well-being, and establish roles and responsibilities as spouses.

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

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[ebbf \(Ethical Business for a Better Future\)](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)
[International Baha'i Website](#)
[International Environment Forum](#)
['Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)
[Louis G. Gregory Museum](#)
[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)
[U.S. National Baha'i Library](#)
[Unity Museum](#)
[Worldwide Baha'i Community](#)

Mark Your Calendar

May 1 - June 18, 2017

[The Mashriqu'l-Adkar: The First Hundred Years](#)

May 10 - June 27, 2017

[Gems of Mysteries and Other Early Tablets](#)

May 15 - July 2, 2017

[Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

May 22 - July 9, 2017

[Baha'i History, 1863-2017](#)

May 25 - July 17, 2017

[Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States](#)

June 2 - July 7, 2017

NEW COURSE: [Home of Love: Marriage, Family, and Community](#)

June 7 - Aug. 1, 2017

[Baha'i Spirituality: Pathway to Mental Clarity, Inner Calm, Awareness of God, and Physical Health](#)

June 20 - August 8, 2017

[The Promised Day Is Come](#)

June 25 - August 19, 2017

[The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction](#)

**July - December 2017
Course Schedule**

Learn about Native American religion and spirituality and the Baha'i Faith

Native American Religion and Spirituality

One in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Faculty: [Richard Hainsworth](#), [Ceylan Isgor](#), [Brian O'Flanagan](#)
Special Faculty: [Kevin Locke](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 1 - May 26, 2017)



In **Native American Religion and Spirituality**, we will examine the common threads found in indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices and the universal message of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how Native American teachings and values reflect some of the more salient teachings and principles of the Baha'i revelation and in so doing will also inquire into how culture shapes our perceptions of reality and seek to gain insights into our inherent cultural biases. We will cover a range of topics: the historic culture clash between indigenous peoples and settlers; the use of language and symbolism in intercultural communication; the impacts of colonization and Christianity in the colonization process; and the effect both have had on native religion and spirituality and the implications for the spread of Baha'u'llah's message in indigenous communities. In our readings, discussions, and consultations, we will strive for expansive thinking and will also revisit 'Abdu'l-Baha's statement about the importance of the original inhabitants of North America and the Lakota prophecy about the rise of the Seventh Generation, reframing these statements in the context of the current Five Year Plan (2016-21).

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

Learn how to discuss spiritual topics with Christian friends and relatives

Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

Another in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 10 - June 4, 2017)



In **Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue** we will explore major themes that form part of Christian belief and compare them with the Baha'i Faith: conceptions of God and the trinity; Christian rites, the Eucharist, and baptism; the kingdom of God; faith in miracles; the Crucifixion; and the Resurrection. We will begin with an introduction to the Bible and its organization and will also cover politics and religion. Using Baha'i, Islamic, and academic perspectives, we will examine the themes in the Gospels' original context and then explore them in their

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for July through December 2017. The schedule is subject to change. The listing is still partial.

July 1 - August 25, 2017
Some Answered Questions

July 15 - September 7, 2017
Dynamic Consultation

July 21 - September 15, 2017
NEW COURSE: Are We Ready for Marriage?

August 1 - September 17, 2017
The Kitab-i-Iqan

August 20 - October 7, 2017
Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving our Global Crises

August 25 - October 12, 2017
Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue

September 1 - October 19, 2017
Practicing the Arts: A Workshop for Baha'i Artists

September 8 - October 13, 2017
NEW COURSE: Navigating Marriage Challenges

September 10 - October 28, 2017
Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind

September 15 - November 2, 2017
Introduction to the Qur'an

September 22 - November 9, 2017
The Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees

October 1 - November 17, 2017
NEW COURSE: The Book of Revelation

October 7 - November 17, 2017
Feast Consultation

October 10 - November 27, 2017
The Summons of the Lord of Hosts

October 15 - December 2, 2017
The World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters

October 25 - December 12, 2017
Three Covenants

October 27 - December 1, 2017
NEW COURSE: Communicating as a Couple Before and After Marriage

November 1 - December 19, 2017
NEW COURSE: Eleven

November 7 - December 25, 2017

modern forms. We will be studying Christianity for the purposes of deepening and dialogue--that is, for understanding the basics of Christianity as a divinely revealed religion and for learning how to share the Baha'i perspective with a variety of Christians in an informed and respectful manner.

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

Learn how to add your voice to public discourse on climate change and to change your personal and community life

Climate Change

A course in a series on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Christine Muller](#)
Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 15 - June 9, 2017)



Climate change is a major issue of our times. The nations of the world, in the Paris Agreement of 2015, have committed to keeping global warming well below a dangerous level, although they are far from being on track to do so. Despite partisan political debate, the defiance of vested interests, and distorted public perceptions, the science is

unequivocal that global warming is real and is caused by human activities. The recent evidence is alarming. Climate change is not only a scientific but a deeply spiritual and ethical challenge. This course on **Climate Change** provides a basic scientific understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, discusses its ethical challenges, and relates them to the spiritual teachings of the world's religions, particularly the Baha'i Faith. It will help you consider changes in your lifestyle to bring greater coherence to your life and show you how to incorporate environmental and social responsibility in Baha'i core activities and community gatherings. It elevates public discourse above partisan politics by introducing spiritual responses to the climate crisis and demonstrating how the harmony of science and religion can be applied for the well-being of humankind. The course includes many optional resources for those who wish to delve more deeply into climate-change issues.

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

Learn more about the unity of science and religion

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith

One in a series on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Steven Friberg](#)
Faculty: [Roger Neyman](#), [Robert Sarracino](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 22 - June 16, 2017)

Baha'i Theology

November 10 - December 28, 2017
The Secret of Divine Civilization

November 15, 2017 - January 3, 2018
The Equality of Women and Men:
Application in Public and Private Life

November 18, 2017 - January 5, 2018
NEW COURSE: Understanding Interfaith and
Intercultural Couples

December 1, 2017 - January 17, 2018
Writing Biographies and Histories

December 10, 2017 - January 27, 2018
The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

December 15, 2017 - January 29, 2018
The Promise of World Peace

The full tentative 2017 course schedule is here:
<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/ourcourses/2017-course-schedule/>



The world has seen a remarkable growth of science and an unprecedented decline in the influence of religion since the birth of Baha'u'llah two hundred years ago. Many have come to believe that science and religion are deeply at odds with each other, leading to bitter and sometimes tragic divisiveness. However, science and religion are described by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith, as "the two most potent forces in human life" that must work together for the healing and the continued development of human society. In **Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith**, we will look at the Baha'i teachings affirming that science and religion are both essential to human welfare and that they must be in harmony with each other. After providing an historical overview of the relationship between science and religion, we will explore the unique Baha'i approach to their affinity. Shoghi Effendi, for example, has declared that the Faith is "scientific in its method," suggesting that essential elements of the method used in the physical and biological sciences to explore the reality of the material world can be applied in a broader context. We also examine the Baha'i writings as they relate to physics, cosmology, biology, and evolution and then consider some perspectives they inspire with regard to the environment and with what some call "the new Atheism." Finally, we explore the call by the Universal House of Justice, the international governing body of the Baha'i Faith, for the systematic development of strong and growing communities through a "culture of learning" and consider effective ways to apply the principles of the unity and harmony of science and religion.

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

ABOUT US

The Wilmette Institute eNewsletter

The Wilmette Institute eNewsletter is published monthly by the Wilmette Institute, which offers quality online courses on the Baha'i Faith. The Wilmette Institute 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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