

January 2014 eNewsletter

News

Ideas for How You Can Mitigate Climate Change: Part 1

The Wilmette Institute course on Climate Change has motivated many learners to make changes in their lives. See how you, too, can contribute to lessening the effects of climate change.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

Many Hoops Website Spurs Families to New Actions

See how "The Story of Squanto" coloring book has made Thanksgiving traditions more inclusive.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

ABS Plenary Sessions Recordings for Sale

You can now order recordings of plenary sessions of the 37th Annual Conference of the Association for Baha'i Studies.

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2013 Sets New Records for Wilmette Institute

Growth in the number of students, faculty, courses offered, and countries represented mark 2013.

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Help a Learner: Contribute to the Wilmette Institute's Scholarship/Discount Fund

See how you can bring another student to our online classroom.

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Save These Dates!

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

[Click here to continue>>](#)

January - March 2014 Courses

A new course for single individuals or couples in a serious relationship or those who want to learn more about preparing for marriage

[Building Unity toward Marriage: Preparing for Marriage](#)

Part of a series of courses to help assure strong marriages

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Five weeks (January 2 - February 5, 2014)



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. . . .

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

Social Media

Facebook and Twitter Discounts

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! Doing so could get you a discount on your next Wilmette Institute course. We are 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

Find us on  Google+

Faculty News

New Book Published by Wilmette Institute Faculty Member Susanne M. Alexander

Read about Alexander's new book on creating excellent relationships.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

Mark Your Calendar

April 10, 2014 - June 2, 2014 [The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah](#)

April 20, 2014 - June 7, 2014
[The Art and Science of Baha'i Spirituality, Obligatory Prayer, Meditation, and Fasting](#)

May 1 - June 17, 2014
[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

May 10 - June 27, 2014
[The Destiny of America](#)

May 20 - July 8, 2014
[Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

May 22 - June 26, 2014
[Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage: Preparing for Marriage](#)

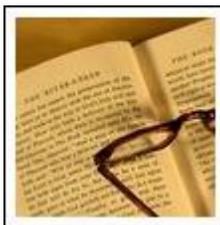
June - November 2014 Course Schedule

Learn new techniques for reading Baha'i texts

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

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Six weeks (January 7 - February 24, 2014)



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

is designed to introduce 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 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 figurative language, theme, structure, and the place of the work in the author's writings, we will develop tools for analyzing any Baha'i text systematically. The course will also examine quickly five other "windows" into the meaning of scripture: 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](#)

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule, June through November 2014. The schedule is still partial and tentative.

June 10, 2014
The Advent of Divine Justice

June 20, 2014
The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

July 10, 2014
Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Aqdas

July 20, 2014
Understanding Religion: Social and Historical Aspects

July 24, 2014
Becoming a Couple: Preparing for Marriage

August 1, 2014
Introduction to Shaykhism

September 1, 2014
Practicing the Arts

September 10, 2014
Introduction to Archives for Baha'i Archivists

September 20, 2014
Climate Change

October 1, 2014
The Writings of the Bab

October 10, 2014
The Promised Day is Come

October 21, 2014
Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

November 1, 2014
Tabernacle of Unity

November 20, 2014
Marriage and Family Life

A course to deepen your understanding of the New Testament and to prepare you for dialogue with Christians

Exploring the New Testament

Another in a series of courses providing an integrated approach to understanding world religions

Lead Faculty: [Peter Terry](#)

Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (January 20 - March 17, 2014)



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 several different writers between 50 and 130 C.E., the works

were accepted as a sacred collection in the third and fourth Christian centuries. In the course 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 explore 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.

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

Revisit the Guardian's writings on the unfolding world civilization

The World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters

One in a series of courses exploring the writings and ministry of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Duration of Course: Five weeks (February 1 - March 21,

2014)



The World Order of Baha'u'llah:

Selected Letters singles out for special study three letters written by Shoghi Effendi: "The Goal of a New World Order," "America and the Most Great Peace," and "The Unfoldment of World Civilization." In its Ridvan 2003 message, the Universal House of Justice, at the beginning of the Iraq War, asked Baha'is to ponder these

letters, which unambiguously explicate events signaling further upset in the world's equilibrium and which "recall the vision and principles" that the Baha'i Faith offers. A decade later, the relevance of the letters to the growth of the Baha'i Faith continues to be reinforced by continuing governmental crises, worldwide economic meltdowns, and environmental disasters. In this course we will consider the background of the three letters, discuss their contents in detail, and explore ideas for preparing local study classes on them and for initiating discussions with friends and relatives.

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

A new course examining some important aspects of all religions

[Understanding Religion: Conceptual and Experiential Aspects](#)

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (February 10 - March 30, 2014)



Understanding Religion attempts to distill some of the knowledge about religion that has accumulated through the study of religion in the past two hundred years. We will look at the definitions of religion that have been offered; probe the various attempts to describe the religious experience; examine the pathway to salvation or liberation that different religious

groups have offered; seek to gain some understanding of such concepts as faith, belief, and the phenomenon of conversion as well as subjects such as suffering, sacrifice, and salvation; strive to gain an overview of the metaphysical explanations of reality offered in diverse religions; and examine the promise of a future savior that is common to many religions. Finally, we will explore the topics of archetype, myth, and the sacred that lie behind much of religious and nonreligious thinking. . . .

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

A course to deepen your understanding of Buddhism and to prepare you for dialogue with Buddhists

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue

Another in a series providing an integrated approach to understanding world religions

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (February 15 - April 4, 2014)



In this course on Buddhism we will survey the life and teachings of the Buddha, the development of His ideas, and the widespread dissemination of Buddhism over much of Asia and, since the late nineteenth century, to the West. We will also read some of the Buddhist texts and examine similarities and differences between Buddhism and the Baha'i Faith (and other religions), including the emphasis both place on personal transformation. The course will deepen your understanding of an important religion that began in India and will prepare you for discussing spiritual concepts and practices with Buddhist friends and neighbors.

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

A popular course that helps you incorporate the arts into your Baha'i activities

The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#), [Marian Nirou Saniee](#)

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (March 1 - April 18, 2014)



In this course on the Baha'i Faith and the arts, we will explore the purpose of the arts from a Baha'i perspective, looking at the relationship between art and religion; the specialized and important service artists contribute to humanity; how the Baha'i writings encourage artists; how we can reframe imagination, creativity, and risk-taking within a Baha'i context; and how we can develop a serviceable language about the arts that enables us to integrate the arts more fully into Feasts, Holy

Days, 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](#)

A popular course that provides tools for helping you to mitigate climate change

[Climate Change](#)

Lead Faculty: [Christine Muller](#)

Faculty: [Gary Colliver](#), [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#), [Carole Flood](#), [Karryn Olson-Ramanujan](#), [Melinda Salazar](#)

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (March 10 - April 28, 2014)



In this course we will study the basic science of climate change and acquire an understanding of how climate disruption impacts us today and will continue to affect us in the future. We will explore ethical questions related to climate change and address them in the context of the spiritual

teachings of the world's religions, especially those of the Baha'i Faith. Some readings will help us make enlightened decisions for our personal and community lives that are consistent with our spiritual and ethical values. Finally, we will learn to participate in public discourse by being empowered to present, from a Baha'i perspective, spiritual responses to the climate crisis to those who are concerned about climate change. For those interested in a more thorough study of climate change and its spiritual dimensions or who are interested in specific aspects of it, the course offers numerous optional resources.

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

A course for couples looking for ways to make their marriages stronger

[Making the Most of Your Time Together: Strengthening Marriage](#)

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (March 13 - April 24, 2014)



Making the Most of Your Time Together: Strengthening Your Marriage aims to help

married individuals and couples strengthen and balance their marriages. The fast pace of life, the demands of employers, and the service needs of the Baha'i Faith and humanity challenge everyone. However, your marriage serves as a key foundation for unity on the planet. Hence meeting your couple and family needs is a paramount priority that requires balance between service and family time. In the course we will discuss questions such as these: How are you using your time? Who is asking you to spend your time in a given way? Is this the best use of your time at the moment? Do you feel the freedom to say "No"? Why or why not? How can you protect the unity and integrity of your marriage while serving the Faith? Are you able to spend time together and have light-hearted fun? In what other ways can you nurture your marriage?

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

An approach to helping you understand
Baha'u'llah's Most Holy Book

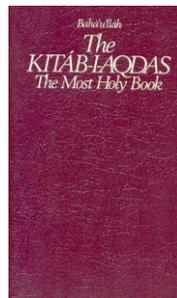
[The Kitab-i-Aqdas](#)

One in a series of courses on the writings of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Steven Phelps](#)

Duration of course: Thirteen Weeks (March 22 - June 14, 2014)



About the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Shoghi Effendi has written that it "may well be regarded as the brightest emanation of the mind of Baha'u'llah, as the Mother Book of His Dispensation, and the Charter of His New World Order." In this course we will read the Kitab-i-Aqdas and supplemental texts related to it, while studying several of its main themes: covenant, succession, and manifestation; Baha'i institutions, including the rulers and the learned, the Universal House of Justice, Houses of Worship, Feasts, Holy Days, and the

Baha'i calendar; the nature and purpose of Baha'u'llah's laws; Baha'u'llah's ordinances; prohibitions and punishments; Baha'u'llah's proclamations to kings, rulers, places, and groups of people; education and transformation; and teaching the Baha'i 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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