

July 2017 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars,
Conferences,
Learners in
Action

Courses for Next Three
Months

July - September 2017

Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah

Bicentenaries of the Birth of Baha'u'llah and the Harvard Divinity School Highlight Unity



The bicentenaries of two significant anniversaries--the birth of Baha'u'llah and the Harvard Divinity School--prompted the Baha'i World News Service to write a long [essay](#) on connections between the Baha'i Faith's commitment to unity and oneness and to Harvard and Baha'is connected to Harvard. In addition, Baha'i visiting scholar Dr. Sasha Dehghani gave a [talk](#) at Harvard's Center for the Study of World Religions on "The Religion of Unity

A Register-When-You-Need-It Course. Sign up anytime. Work at your own pace.

[Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Open to individuals, couples, families, and community groups. Study is self-guided. Faculty-mentors available as needed for help.

[Watch the video](#)

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



Update your knowledge of the Baha'i Faith in

and the Unity of Religion: Remembering the Baha'i Faith and Baha'u'llah."

"Power Over All Things": An Australian Popular Performer Records a Prayer for Baha'u'llah

Nathaniel Willemse, an Australian popular singer, has released a [music video](#) (3:09) of a song composed by Anise K. to honor the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, "inspired by the hopeful vision in the Baha'i writings," according to the [Baha'i World News Service](#). Take a listen.

Wilmette Institute News

Wilmette Institute Signs Articulation Agreement with the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

A goal of many years accomplished: The Wilmette Institute signs an agreement whereby students can receive graduate credit for Institute courses, opening doors to other universities. [READ>>](#)



July 23 Web Talk: Augusto Lopez-Claros Discusses "The Emergence of Global Institutions"

A Web Talk made for equipping you for meaningful conversations: What transformations are needed for effective global governance? How might the transition be organized? Sign up now. [READ>>](#)



Collaboration between the Wilmette Institute and Brazilian Institutions in a Course on Marriage and

preparation for conversations leading up to the Twin Birthdays in October

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

Another in a series on the world's religions

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Bill Collins](#), [Daniel Gebhardt](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 7 - September 1, 2017)



The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

offers a thorough and systematic study of the Baha'i religion. We will start with a review of the vastness of the Baha'i Faith's authoritative texts, which sets it apart from other religions. In

subsequent units we will examine the fundamental concept of unity and its implications for creating community, reforming the world, and reconceptualizing such subjects as leadership, politics, and conflict; the nature of God, revelation, Manifestation, humanity, creation, religion, and the Baha'i Faith's relationship to other faiths; the nature and spiritual development of human beings and the role of marriage and family life; and the Baha'i approach to reorganizing the social life and civilization of the human species. In the historical section of the course we will examine the development of the Baha'i community from the time of the Bab (1844) to the present, considering the development of new Baha'i institutions and the Faith's focus on several important priorities: diversity, geographical spread, and empowerment of the membership. The course is suitable for inquirers wishing a basic overview, new Baha'is desiring a chance to explore the religion they have accepted, and veteran Baha'is wishing to refresh and deepen their understanding.

[Watch the video](#)

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

Learn how to talk about the importance of agriculture and sustainable development and how to incorporate agriculture into your life

[Baha'i Perspectives on](#)

Community Life

A Wilmette Institute course on marriage in English proves to be a hit, when translated into Portuguese and offered in Brazil: a successful collaboration between two continents. [READ>>](#)

Marjan Nirou Saniee: 1962-2017

Iraj Saniee pays homage to his wife in a moving obituary. Marjan, among many contributions to art, cofounded the Wilmette Institute's first arts workshop course and for five years was a beloved faculty for **Practicing the Arts** and **The Bahá'í Faith and the Arts** courses in which she often took the initiative in discussing ways in to enrich them and to deepen the online discussions. [READ>>](#)



Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer:



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

Baha
Solar Power! Who should do it. Why you should do it. Websites for finding inexpensive ways to fund it. Special incentives for Baha'is to consider it. [READ>>](#)

Learners in Action

New Attitudes Emerge from Climate Change Course

Fayyaz Rehman, from Lahore, Pakistan, started the **Climate Change** course with considerable knowledge about the topic and ended with a deeper understanding of the Baha'i Faith's spiritual principles

Agriculture and Food

Another course in a series on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#), [Kim Nagvi](#), [Neil Whatley](#), [Robert White](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 10 - August 27, 2017)



Baha'u'llah described agriculture as "a vital and important matter" that was foremost among the principles "conducive to the advancement of mankind and to the reconstruction of the world" (*Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed After the Kitab-i-Aqdas* 90, 89).

Yet current agricultural policy often prioritizes yield and profit over health, sustainability, and sociocultural features of rural communities, while the poor struggle to even feed themselves, and climate change makes farming increasingly unpredictable. These and other factors threaten food security. In **Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food**, we will examine the teachings of the Baha'i Faith on agriculture, food, and rural development; relate these teachings to contemporary public discourse on these issues; and suggest ways in which agricultural activities can be incorporated into core activities, community-building, and emerging social action.

[Watch the video](#)

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

Discover the art and skill of divine, dynamic consultation

Dynamic Consultation

One in a series on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Trip Barthel](#)

Faculty: [Shamil Fattakhov](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 15 - September 7, 2017)

undergirding the issues involved.

[READ>>](#)

Meaningful Conversations Aided by the Study of Islam

A graduate student from New York City thought she knew a lot about Islamic studies but ended up learning a great deal and also learning how to have meaningful conversations with Muslim friends. [READ>>](#)

Web Talks/Webinars on the Mind and Its Development; Emerging Global Institutions; Zoroastrianism; the Seven Valleys; and More

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Jul. 23, 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](#) / Sept. 17, 2017

Louise Profeit-LeBlanc
"Seven Caribou Spirit Bowls: Seven Valleys toward Reconciliation"

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

Paul Hanley
"Eleven"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Dec. 3, 2017

Elena Mustakova-Possardt
"A Psychology That Responds to Our Times: Transforming Inner Oppression into Awakened, Aligned, and Liberated



In **Dynamic Consultation** we will bring together the principles of Baha'i consultation with the practices of mediation and facilitation. The course is designed to promote unity and action in the community through teaching the art and science

of consultation in practical skill-based exercises. In seven units we will discuss (1) engaging by meeting and greeting; (2) empathizing by feeling and connecting, and exploring by learning and knowing; (3) envisioning by framing and focusing; (4) expanding with creativity and diversity; (5) elucidating virtues and principles; (6) evaluating options and criteria, and executing via action and unity; and (7) examining with reflection and growth. The course's aim is to enable learners to apply the skills at Feasts, in Spiritual Assembly and committee meetings, in reflection gatherings, as well as in family or work settings. The course is based on a textbook available at <http://www.dynamicconsultation.org/dc/Workshops.html>; it will also be available through the course website.

[Watch the video](#)

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

NEW COURSE

Explore the many facets of commitment that lead to a strong marriage

[Are We Ready for Marriage? Deepening Our Courtship](#)

Another course on the individual, marriage, and family

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Leslie Asplund](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 21 - September 15, 2017)

Spirit"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Jan. 14, 2018](#)

JoAnn Borovicka

"Ten Plagues of the Exodus in the Light of the Baha'i Writings"

Conferences/Colloquia on the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah; Ethical Business as a Spiritual Enterprise; and the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions

[`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. 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

[ebbf / Oct. 12-15, 2017](#)

"Ethical Business Building the Future: Transitioning Towards the Spiritual Enterprise"

Bucharest, Romania



You are in a serious relationship and wondering whether you can be successful together in marriage. Come explore your shared vision of a possible unified future life together. Engage in a rich learning experience about friendship, communication, spiritual unity, being of

service, equality, family life with children, money and work, marriage as a divine institution and foundation for world unity, uniting a couple's families, and parental consent to marriage. Thorough preparation for marriage and certainty about your path forward help couples establish a strong foundation.

[Watch the video](#)

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

Study "the most important book written on the spiritual significance of the Cause"

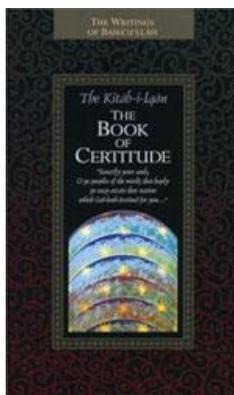
[The Kitab-i-Iqan: An Introduction](#)

One in a series of courses exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 1 - September 17, 2017)



Revealed in January 1861, the Kitab-i-Iqan (the Book of Certitude) is the "most important book written on the spiritual significance of the Cause" and a work that Baha'u'llah calls "the lord of books." Among the "foremost" works of His Revelation, the Iqan is "unequaled by any work in the entire range of Baha'i literature, except the Kitab-i-Aqdas." The Iqan is unique in that "this Book alone" provides the basis for reconciling the followers of "the great religions of the world." It "contains the basic tenets of the Faith" and "explains the attitude" of the Baha'i Faith toward "the prophets

of God and their mission in the history of society." It elucidates key allegorical passages in the New Testament and the Qur'an that

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

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

[Parliament of the World's Religions](#) /
Nov. 1-7, 2018

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND OTHER LINKS

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute: Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Deepen Webinars](#)
[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](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)
[International Baha'i Website](#)
[International Environment Forum](#)
[Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Iouhelen Baha'i School](#)

have caused misunderstandings among religious leaders. The Book of Certitude is one of Baha'u'llah's great "contributions to the world's religious literature" and is "of unsurpassed preeminence among the doctrinal and ethical writings of the Author of the Baha'i Dispensation."

[Watch the video](#)

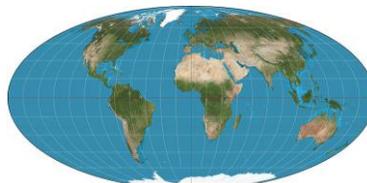
[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Learn about solving the problems of an adolescent humanity

[Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving our Global Crises](#)

A course in a series on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Sovaida Maani Ewing](#)



Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 20 - October 7, 2017)

As humanity passes through stages of collective growth and moves toward integration and unity, it finds itself caught in the thick of many painful and

seemingly intractable challenges that mark a turbulent adolescence--crises such as climate change, financial upheavals, proliferation of nuclear weapons, gross human-rights atrocities, and mismanagement of critical natural resources. In **Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving Our Global Crises**, we will examine how we can solve these and similar problems using 'Abdu'l-Baha's advice offered a century ago about establishing collective decision-making and implementing institutions that can and should evolve into a world federation of nation-states. We will also explore the lessons we can usefully glean from the American experience of establishing a federation as well as from Europe's ongoing experiment as it moves toward deeper integration. Finally, we will learn how to respond effectively to skeptics who argue that creating a global federation is a pipe-dream because nations will never be willing to cede sovereignty, and we will equip ourselves with ways to allay fears that such a move will lead to an abusive world government that is so excessively centralized that it will not heed the voices of diverse populations and minorities and will trample upon their rights.

[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](#)

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](#)

November 1 - December 19, 2017
NEW COURSE: [Eleven](#)

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](#)

December 2017 Course Schedule

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

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

Learn how to dialogue and serve with Zoroastrians

[Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

One in a series of courses exploring an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 25 - October 12, 2017)



Zoroastrianism, an ancient religious tradition founded by Zoroaster, or Zarathustra, some five hundred to one thousand years before Christ, is the focus of **Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue**. We will examine Zoroaster's life; what has survived of His words; His teachings; the subsequent spread and development of the Zoroastrian tradition; references to

Zoroastrianism in the writings of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha; and the relationship of Zoroastrianism to later religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Baha'i Faith). We will study Zoroaster and the divinely ordained religion He founded to deepen in the basics of Zoroastrianism and its relationship to the Baha'i Faith and to prepare for dialogue with adherents of Zoroastrianism.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn more about expressing yourself in the written word (poetry, fiction, essays, memoirs)

[Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice of Creative](#)

is still partial.

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

December 7, 2017 - January 24, 2018
Baha'i Theology

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

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

Writing

One is a series of courses exploring the development of a skill

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 1 - October 19, 2017)



Have you always wanted to write? Do you already write but struggle to connect your writing with your spiritual beliefs? In **Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice of Creative Writing**, you will have the opportunity to generate the work you have always wanted to produce and to reflect on ways you

might integrate your creative work with your spiritual practice.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn how to participate in meaningful conversations on a variety of topics

The Baha'i Faith and Social Change

Another in a series on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

Faculty: [Barney Leith](#), [Dan Wheatley](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 5 - October 24, 2017)



Develop your capacity to have effective conversations about some of today's most challenging issues. This course will familiarize you with key Baha'i texts and principles about human utterance, politics, economics, human rights, the environment, and the role of religion in the evolution of society.

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

Learn more about sustainable development and how to have meaningful conversations on the topic

[Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)

Another in a series on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#)

Faculty: [Peter Adriaance](#), [Christine Muller](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 10 - October 28, 2017)



Are you troubled by the poverty and suffering of people at home and abroad, concerned about the future of your children, and worried about the destruction of the environment on which their

lives depend? These are the challenges of sustainable development, requiring a fundamental transformation in the economic, social, and environmental actions of your life and society. **Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind** will explore the profound implications of the Baha'i teachings for sustainability and the scientific and spiritual principles that can ensure the future prosperity of humankind.

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

Study the Qur'an to understand the Baha'i writings better

[Exploring the Qur'an](#)

Another in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Duration of course: Nine weeks (September 15 - November 16, 2017)



In view of Shoghi Effendi's emphasis on the importance of Baha'is' studying the Qur'an, we will examine Baha'i references to the Qur'an and study a summary of the Qur'an and the tenets of Islam. Then we will study how the Qur'an describes itself and delve into several topics in the Qur'an: the nature of God; divine unity; the Prophets of God; and the Latter Day. Finally, we will discuss some Qur'anic verses as they relate to the Baha'i

Faith.

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

Learn about service through the women closely related to the Bab and Baha'u'llah

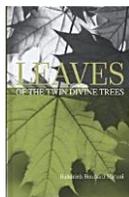
[The Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees](#)

One in a series on the history of the Baha'i Faith

Lead Faculty: [Baharieh Rouhani Ma'ani](#)

Faculty: [Susan Cangurel](#), [Lina Zeine](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (September 22 - November 16, 2017)



Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees aims to fill a gap in the early history of the Babi and Baha'i faiths concerning services rendered by women closely related to the Bab and Baha'u'llah. This course provides a forum for discussing the exemplary lives and legacies of the most prominent among such women, inspiring future generations to make service to the Cause a priority in their lives.

[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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