

## June 2010 eNewsletter

### News

#### Baha'i International Community Releases Statement on "Rethinking Prosperity"

Have we become slaves to self-interest and consumerism? A new statement released by the Baha'i international Community posits that we are not and challenges us to reconsider what we think we need and what we really need--in short, to take a profound look at our true human nature. "[Rethinking Prosperity: Forging Alternatives to a Culture of Consumerism](#)" was the Baha'i contribution to the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. . . .

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### Our Students Speak Up

#### Islam for Deepening and Dialogue



I hadn't realized before this how my love for the Baha'i Faith has closed me off from serious study of other faiths. I had no idea how much growth I would experience in my Baha'i Faith from the study of Islam. I truly feel like a more complete Baha'i. . . . I now know that

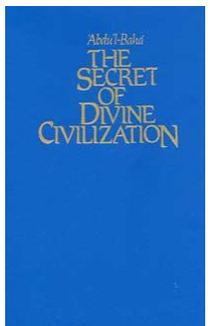
### June-August 2010 Courses

#### [The Secret of Divine Civilization](#)

Lead Faculty: Peter Terry  
Faculty: Farhad Rassekh

Duration of course: Three months (June 7 - Sept. 7, 2010)

In this course we will study `Abdu'l-Baha's work *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, the first extensive description of Baha'i social teachings. Appealing to worldmindedness, the work is a handbook that describes the true nature of civilization and provides a blueprint for the "future reorganization of the world." . . .



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#### [How to Study the Baha'i Writings](#)

Lead Faculty: Sandra Hutchison  
Faculty: Richard Hollinger

Duration of course: Three months (June 15 - Sept. 15, 2010)



How to Study the Baha'i Writings is one of four basic courses offered by the Wilmette Institute. It is designed to introduce students to a method of studying the Baha'i scriptures systematically by using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course we will study selected passages from Baha'i scripture through nine "windows" into divine wisdom.

involvement with interfaith dialogue is really important and plan to open myself to opportunities for that. . . . I would like to make presentations on Islam. That will require assistance from others because I don't even make presentations of the Baha'i Faith. I'm a tutor for Ruhi and have devotionals and firesides, but there are always other people's input and the Ruhi books. I'd like to design something sort of like Ruhi that we can read together and discuss.

--Rosemary Ryan, San Diego, California

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## How to Study the Baha'i Writings

I have a new appreciation for the interconnectedness of the times, the political situation, the individual daily lives of the Central Figures, and the overriding universal theme of all our precious writings. The Bab, Baha'u'llah, and 'Abdu'l-Baha were writing for their immediate audience as well as future generations. . . . They still reached up and out to the whole world and its peoples for thousands of years into the future. I caught what they were sending up and out. . . . Now I must follow that stream back to the roots. I must descend back in time to where they were, how they lived, with whom they associated--back to the roots of the Baha'i writings that I caught and embraced. Only then will I have done justice to the study of writings.



--Mindy Mendelsohn, Watkinsville, Georgia

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## [Mark Your Calendar](#)

**September 1 - November 30, 2010**

[The Writings of the Bab](#)

**September 15 - December 15, 2010**

. . .

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## [Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

*Lead Faculty: Susan Maneck*

*Faculty: Robert Stockman and Christopher Buck*

**Duration of course: Three months (July 15 - Oct. 15, 2010)**

Zoroastrianism, an ancient religious tradition founded by Zoroaster, or Zarathustra, some 500 to 1,000 years before Christ, is the focus of this course. We will examine Zoroaster's life, what has survived of His words, His teachings. . . .



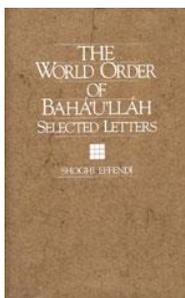
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## [The World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters](#)

*Lead Faculty: Zaid Lundberg*

*Faculty: Faris Badii*

**Duration of course: Three months (Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, 2010)**



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. . .

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## 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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**September 22 - December 22, 2010**  
[Revelation and Social Reality](#)

**October 1 - December 30, 2010**  
[The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi](#)

**October 15 - January 15, 2011**  
[Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings](#)

**October 22 - January 22, 2011**  
[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

**November 1 - January 31, 2011**  
[Qur'an](#)

**November 15 - February 15, 2011**  
[Exploring the Christian New Testament](#)

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