

June 2011 eNewsletter

What's New?

Tentative 2012 Schedule



A tentative schedule for the Wilmette Institute's 2012 courses is taking shape. No course sites have been set up yet, no registration pages exist, and faculty have not been finalized. As faculty are chosen, the dates of some courses may have to be changed. But the Wilmette Institute Board

thought you would like to see what is coming. All the following courses will be three months long.

Starting Course

01/02/12	How to Study the Baha'i Writings
01/10/12	Kitab-i-Aqdas
01/20/12	Bahá'í Faith and Philosophy
02/01/12	Prayers and Meditations
02/15/12	Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue
03/01/12	Bahá'í Faith and Art
03/10/12	Exploring the Qur'an
03/20/12	Science and Religion
04/01/12	Building the Fortress: Marriage and Family Life
04/15/12	`Abdu'l-Bahá in America
05/01/12	Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas
05/15/12	Buddhism For Deepening and Dialogue
06/01/12	Bahá'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey
06/15/12	Exploring the Christian New Testament
07/01/12	Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue
07/15/12	The Advancement of Women

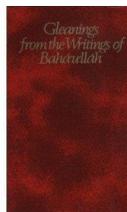
June - August 2011 Courses

[Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah](#)

Lead Faculty: Brent Poirier

Faculty: Robert Harris

Duration of course: Three months (June 1 - Aug. 31, 2011)



Gleanings, Shoghi Effendi wrote through his secretary, is a volume over which Baha'i youth should "gain a mastery" and which "should be the continued guide and companion of every believer." He expressed the hope that its study would enable the believers "to gain a fuller consciousness of their functions and responsibilities, and to arise and set the example before the rest of the believers, not only in the field of teaching, but in all the other fields of Baha'i activity as well." To begin to acquire such mastery. . . .

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

Lead Faculty: Zaid Lundberg

08/15/12 The Writings of the Báb
 09/01/12 The Tabernacle of Unity
 09/15/12 Introduction to Archives for
 Bahá'í Archivists
 10/01/12 Chinese Religions for Deepening
 and Dialogue
 10/15/12 Ministry of Shoghi Effendi
 11/01/12 Century of Light
 11/15/12 Christianity for Deepening and
 Dialogue
 12/01/12 The Secret of Divine Civilization
 12/15/12 Bahá'í Theology

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Our Students Speak Up

Gaining the Habit of Daily Study



My attitude toward reading the Baha'i writings has changed [as a result of studying *The Promised Day Is Come*]. I am reading more each day than I was before this class. I feel more comfortable attacking the holy writings, probably because a great deal of this book quoted Baha'u'llah. . . . The best thing I have gained is a stronger appreciation for Shoghi Effendi's work and a deeper interest in the Baha'i writings.

-- Crigen Richards, Auburn, Maine

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Discovering the Basic Baha'i Teachings through Study of Shoghi Effendi

I did gain a greater understanding for the Baha'i Faith, Shoghi Effendi, `Abdu'l-Baha, and Baha'u'llah. . . . I am starting to attend Baha'i devotionals in my area and have registered to take another Wilmette course on Christianity and the Baha'i Faith. . . . I plan to do what Baha'u'llah requested of all--to investigate the faith. I will continue to study and read more Baha'i writings. I feel that Baha'u'llah does have a divine message for our time.



--Ida Cummings, Charlottesville, Virginia

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Faculty: Nicola Daniels

Duration of course: Three months (June 15 - Sept. 15, 2011)

This course offers a thorough, rigorous, and systematic study of the Baha'i religion. We will start with an examination of the question "What is religion?" Then we will study the history of the Baha'i Faith through the lives of its founding figures (Baha'u'llah, the Bab, and `Abdu'l-Baha) as well as its Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. One unit will cover the organization of the Baha'i . . .



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Springboard for the Five Year Plan

Faculty: Timara Adams, Elizabeth Herth, and Tim Wood

Duration of course: One month (July 1 - 31, 2011)

This new course is designed to prepare you for participating in the new Five Year Plan (2011-16). It will provide a slow, careful reading and discussion of the Ridvan 2010 message; the December 28, 2010, message to the Continental Counselors; the January 1, 2011, message to the Baha'is of the world; and the Ridvan 2011 message from the Universal House of Justice. The cost for the one-month course is \$50 for all individuals and \$150 for groups of up to six. The course has filled, but it will be offered again . . .



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Exploring the Tanakh/Christian Old Testament

*Lead Faculty: Daniel Grolin
 Faculty: Ted Brownstein*

Duration of course: Three months (July 15 - Oct. 15, 2011)

The Tanakh (called the Old Testament by Christians) is a collection of writings sacred to Jews and Christians. In this course we will study the Tanakh's major books (the Pentateuch, the earlier and later prophets, the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs) in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. . . .



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

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My major insight is that it IS possible to improve my understanding of the Baha'i writings by applying the "windows" of this course. The "windows" offer a systematic process of studying the writings.

I also acquired heightened understanding of Shoghi Effendi's authoritative writings on Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha. I have learned to turn to Shoghi Effendi's writings on a work when beginning to study it.

-- Thelma Konstantinidou, Volos, Greece

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[The Value of the Course How to Study the Baha'i Writings](#)

In the course on **How to Study the Baha'i Writings**, I learned a new method and approach to reading the scripture using the nine windows. I learned unique aspects of the words from each of these lenses.



I started this course wondering if using a more analytical approach might somehow take away from the mystical aspects of reading scripture. I think I found that viewing the words through different lenses actually added to the depth in my reading. . . .

-- Mike Stearns, Greensboro, North Carolina

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[Mark Your Calendar](#)

Sept. 1 - Nov. 30, 2011 [The Life of Baha'u'llah](#)

[The Summons of the Lord of Hosts](#)

Lead Faculty: Moojan Momen

Faculty: Paula Drewek

Duration of course: Three months (Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, 2011)

In **The Summons of the Lord of Hosts** course we will explore the series of letters that Baha'u'llah sent to kings and rulers of the world between 1866 and 1870. Written after He declared His mission, the letters, according to the Universal House of Justice, "summoned the monarchs of East and West collectively, and some among them individually, to recognize the Day of God and to acknowledge the One promised in the scriptures of the religions professed by the recipients of His Summons." Baha'u'llah Himself says that "Never since the beginning of the world hath the Message been so openly proclaimed"



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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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Sept. 15 - Dec. 15, 2011 [Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)

Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2011 [Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

Oct. 15, 2011 - Jan. 15, 2012 [The Advent of Divine Justice](#)

Nov. 1, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012
[Baha'i History, 1863 - 2011](#)

Nov. 15, 2011 - Feb. 15, 2012
[Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

Wilmette Institute, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60201-2886 USA
Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388) - Fax: 1.847.733.3563
Email: info@wilmetteinstitute.org
Web: www.wilmetteinstitute.us.bahai.org

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