

March 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

March - May 2017

Letter from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

Time for Bold Action: America and the Five Year Plan

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States has shared with the American Baha'i community a letter, dated February 25, 2017, on "the condition of the society in which we live and serve" and on "the profound responsibility we all bear to present the unifying teachings of Baha'u'llah to our fellow-citizens." [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute News

Free "Deepen! Web Video" Program Starting Soon

The Wilmette Institute is launching a new free education program to assist learners in studying the Baha'i writings and Baha'i themes. Called **Deepen! Web Video**, the program will include web videos on Facebook and supplementary study questions and blogs. To find out more



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

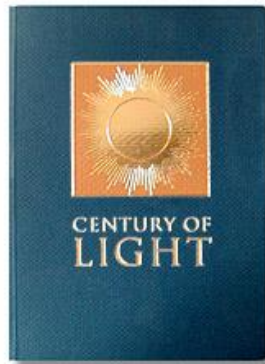
[Century of Light](#)

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

[READ>>](#)

Update on Closed Captioning for Wilmette Institute YouTube Channel Videos--And Request for Help

The Wilmette Institute needs volunteers to help correct closed captioning for videos for the new free **Deepen! Web Video** program, for a backlog of Web Talks, and for new videos being prepared by Institute faculty for courses. Read about three older Web Talks that now have closed captions and about how you can help speed up the correcting of closed captions on old videos and new ones. [READ>>](#)

Web Talks Can Help You Take the Bold Actions Called for in the Five Year Plan

Look to the Wilmette Institute's 23 Web Talks for help in planning the "bold actions" that the national governing body of the Baha'is of the United States calls for in its February 25, 2017, letter. You will find ones on many aspects of refashioning the society around you, others on deep reflection on the Creative Word, and yet others that show how history has reshaped individuals and communities. [READ>>](#)

Fundraising Goal: More Great News

March brings more great news! The Wilmette Institute fundraising goal for 2017-18 has now reached \$63,430! This means that the Institute can offer more scholarships for students around the world. And it can fund new initiatives that have only been dreams. 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

Living Responsibly Making Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer: Eat Less Beef!

"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful prayers."--

'Abdu'l-Baha

March's tip for living responsibly is to eat less beef. While you reevaluate your spiritual and material life during the Baha'i Fast,



consider how raising beef contributes to global warming and malnourishment. By clicking on the link, you can also revisit other tips on living responsibly, all courtesy of Christine Muller, lead faculty for our **Climate Change** course. [READ>>](#)

Links to Four World Interfaith Harmony Week Webinars

relationship between them. We will also read material on the events and people mentioned in the book. 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 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

The live broadcasts of four February web talks for World Interfaith Harmony Week are now available on YouTube. Here is the [link](#) to the talks, which include: "A More Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World"; "The Next Act: Interfaith Commitments to Climate Action"; "The Dignity of Women Across the World's Religions"; and "Still Standing with Standing Rock."

Learners in Action

What I Learned in the Introduction to Shi'i Islam Course



Stewart Mathison, a Baha'i from Wisconsin, USA, shares what he learned in the **Introduction to Shi'i Islam** course, including being able to share information in an overview way with friends (he says he gained a "far greater understanding than most American have at

present") and a greater understanding of how the Shaykhi School influenced the Babi and Baha'i Faith. [READ>>](#)

News

Important Article about the Iranian Baha'is under the Last Shah Published

You will want to read this important 28-page article written by Dr. Mina Yazdani, Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University. She explores three phases of the history of the Iranian Baha'i community during the reign of Muhammad Reza Shah (1941-79): years of physical danger, 1944-55; years of respite, 1955-77; and the bloody period of 1977-79. [READ>>](#)



New Issue of The Journal of Baha'i Studies Available



The Association for Baha'i Studies has announced the publication of the latest issue of *The Journal of Baha'i Studies* (Vol, 26, No. 3, Fall 2016). The entire issue is devoted to First Nations Peoples/Native Americans with articles by Joyce Baldwin, Patricia Verge, Linda S. Covery, Chelsea Horton, and Alfred Kahn. To read or buy a copy, [click here](#).

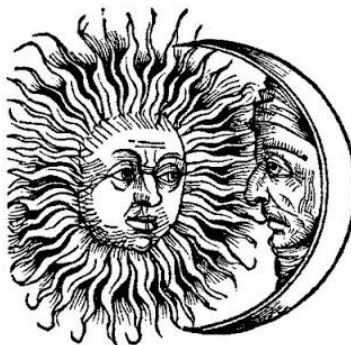
Local Baha'i House of Worship in Columbia

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.

[Watch the Video](#)

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

Learn how anyone (artist or not) can enhance core activities and life in general with art

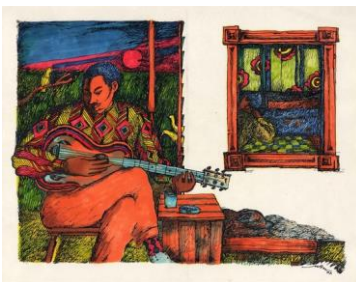
The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

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)



In **The Baha'i Faith and the Arts** we will explore the purpose of the arts from a Baha'i perspective. Among other topics, we will discuss how art and religion have harmonized and conflicted in the past; how the Baha'i dispensation will be similar to and different from the past; the artist as a person with an important gift to share with the world; and how the Baha'i writings encourage artists. We will also consider how to reframe imagination, creativity, and risk-taking within a Baha'i

context; how to prioritize the positive aspect of creativity to enhance our lives, our communities, the Baha'i Faith, and the future; and how to develop a serviceable

Moves Forward

In January Baha'is in Agua Azul, Columbia, broke ground for their local House of Worship, which will be shaped by a cocoa pod. The physical work has been buttressed by a reforestation project on ground near the Temple site. To read more, click [here](#).



The Baha'i International Community Releases Social Development Video and Document

["From Deficit to Abundance: Seeing Capacity for Meaningful Contribution in all Populations and People"](#) is the latest statement released by the Baha'i International Community (BIC). It has also released a [video](#) of the opening plenary meeting of the Commission for Social Development, chaired by Daniel Perell, representative of the BIC and Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development.

Web Talks/Webinars on Structural Racism & Youth Nonviolence; Economics; Three Aspects of the Qur'an; The Importance of Trust in Troubled Times; The Itinerant Hand of the Cause of God; Relationships; and More

[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

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.

[Watch the video](#)

[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.

[Watch the video](#)

[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 the Beginning](#)

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

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#), [Riaz Mostaghim](#)

"The Qur'an in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb"
(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 Harnessing Diversity in the Business World; the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah; The Life and Legacy of Dan Jordan; Religions

[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

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / May 27-28, 2017

"Memorials of the Faithful: The Life and Legacy of Dan Jordan"

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 31 - May 21, 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, which Baha'u'llah refers to 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.

[Watch the video](#)

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

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 Isqor](#), [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).

[Watch the video](#)

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

[`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
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

Watch our live **Deepen! Web Video** Saturday, March 4, 3 pm Eastern time: Kevin Locke will present on "An Indigenous Perspective on Fasting"

NEW COURSE

Learn more about raising children with character and values and ensuring a unified and healthy family

Conscious Parenting of 3 and 4 Year Olds

A new course in a series on family development

Lead Faculty: [Swathi Baskaran](#)

Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Duration of course: Four weeks (April 5 - May 2, 2017)



Conscious Parenting of 3 and 4 Year Olds is an easy self-guided course for busy adults (or a group of parents) to help strengthen parenting skills. This practical course based on Baha'i teachings has practical and fun activities on the following topics: parenting roles and responsibilities; raising children of character and values; and building a unified family. It also includes activities for children to help them create a Baha'i identity and brief practices for parents to strengthen their relationship.

[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](#)

Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

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

WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND OTHER LINKS

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](#)

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

June 7 - Aug. 1, 2017

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

June 20 - July 31, 2017

[The Promised Day Is Come](#)

June 25 - August 19, 2017

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

July 1 - August 25, 2017

[Some Answered Questions](#)

July 10 - August 27, 2017

[Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food](#)

July 15 - September 7, 2017

[Dynamic Consultation](#)

July 21 - September 17, 2017

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

August - December 2017 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule



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, academic, and a variety of sectarian Christian perspectives, we will examine the themes in the Gospels' original context and then explore them in their 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](#)

for August through December 2017. The schedule is subject to change. The listing is still partial.

August 1 - September 17, 2017
The Kitab-i-Iqan: An Introduction

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 16, 2017
Exploring the Qur'an

September 22 - November 16, 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
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

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)



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. In addition, we will 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 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](#)

Explore the roles of continental, national, and local Houses of Worship

[The Mashriqu'l-Adhkar: The Dawning Place of the Mention of God](#)

One in a series on Baha'i communities and administration

Lead Faculty: Candace Hill
Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 1 - June 18, 2017)

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/>



Baha'u'llah, in His Kitab-i-Aqdas, instructed Baha'is to build Houses of Worship, which are dedicated to the praise of God: "The House of Worship forms the central edifice of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar (the Dawning-place of the Praise of God), a complex which, as it unfolds in the future, will comprise in addition to the House of Worship a number of dependencies dedicated to social, humanitarian, educational, and scientific pursuits." This course will examine the

institution of the Mashriqu'l-Ashkar; explore authoritative texts by Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice about the institution; review the completion of continental Houses of Worship in Turkmenistan, the United States, Uganda, Australia, Germany, Panama, India, Samoa, and Chile and the development of the next seven local and national Houses of Worship now being planned; and explore how the devotional character of a future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in your community can evolve and flourish.

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

NEW COURSE

Explore early tablets in which Baha'u'llah addresses mystics and divines

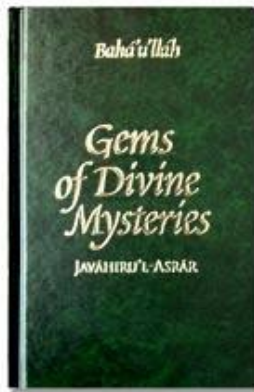
[From Mysticism to Prophecy: Gems of Divine Mysteries and Other Early \(Baghdad Period\) Tablets by Baha'u'llah](#)

A revised and expanded course in a series on the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#), [Susan Maneck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 10 - June 27, 2017)



From Mysticism to Prophecy: Gems of Divine Mysteries and Other Early (Baghdad Period) Tablets by Baha'u'llah

completes the study of Baha'u'llah's early tablets that begins in the course on **Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings**. In this course we will focus on *Gems of Divine Mysteries*, a treatise that Baha'u'llah tells us he wrote "in reply to a seeker who had asked how the promised Mihdi could have become transformed into 'Ali-Muhammad (the Bab)." Part of *Gems of Divine Mysteries* is similar to the mystical Seven Valleys, while other parts are similar to the later-revealed *Kitab-i-Iqan*. Consequently, *Gems of Divine Mysteries* can be said to mark the transition of the proclamation of Baha'u'llah's mission from mystics (mysticism) to divines (prophecy). We will also study other tablets, usually in provisional translations, including: the Sura of Counsel (*Surih-i-Nush*); the City of Divine

Unity (*Madinat al-Tawhid*); the Suffering of the Exalted Letters; the Tablet of Liberation (in which Baha'u'llah frees a slave); and the Sura of Patience (also known as the Tablet of Job), revealed on April 22, 1863, on the first day of Ridvan.

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

Learn how to dialogue and serve with Hindus

[Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

Another in a series on an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 15 - July 2, 2017)



In **Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue**, we will examine the complex of beliefs and practices that constitute "Hinduism," numerically the world's third largest religion, and one of the oldest. We will begin with an overview of Hinduism, including the problem of defining what it is. After reviewing its history and sources of authority, we will explore central Hindu concepts (the nature of the divine, the self, and the soul; Krishna and the "avatara" doctrine; concepts of karma and rebirth); Hindu ethics and social structures; and Hindu practices (yoga, meditation, laws, worship, festivals and holy days, diet). A

comparison with Baha'i views will be threaded throughout. Last, we will examine Hinduism in the modern world, its spread from the place of its birth in the Indian subcontinent, and the growth of the Baha'i Faith in India. We will be studying for two purposes: deepening in the basics of Hinduism as a divinely ordained religion and its relationship to the Baha'i Faith and preparing for dialogue and service with adherents of Hinduism.

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

Update your understanding of Baha'i history, and learn about important changes in the Baha'i community since 1996

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

A course in a series on the history of the Baha'i Faith

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Peter Smith](#)

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



Bahá'í History, 1863-2017, will explore the major themes of Baha'i history from Baha'u'llah's exile from Baghdad to the second decade of the twenty-first century, emphasizing the development of the Baha'i Faith over the last century and a half. We will cover the period from 1863 to the end of Baha'u'llah's life in 1892; the ministry of 'Abdu'l-Baha (1892-1921); the ministry of Shoghi Effendi (1921-57); the ministry of the custodians (1957-63); the period from the election of the Universal House of Justice to the end of the twentieth century

(1963-96); and the period marking a new direction in the teaching work and outreach to the public (1996-2017). In each unit we will be reading from *God Passes By* and/or *Century of Light*, supplementing the books with essays and articles on themes such as the development of the community, attracting minorities, the worldwide spread of the Faith, persecution, and more. The course will also look at the changes in the Baha'i community since 1996, and in particular the changes brought about by the processes of the Five Year Plans.

[Course Description](#)

[Fees](#)

[Course Schedule](#)

[Register](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

Learn how you can contribute to discussions about the important topic of governance

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

Another in a series on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Brian Aull](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 25 - July 19, 2017)



The Universal House of Justice has commented on the breakdown of trust and collaboration between the individual and institutions of governance because of the corrupt practices of partisan politics. This "broken" state of American democracy is the subject of numerous books and articles. Baha'is have something to contribute to this discussion, for the Baha'i electoral process with its consultative approach to decision-

making and Baha'i efforts in developing human resources and building communities constitute a living model of democratic life. In **Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States** we will explore how Baha'is might contribute to discourses on governance in a way that speaks the language and engages the concerns of scholars, activists, and other people of good will working for civic renewal in the United States.

[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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