

November 2011 eNewsletter

News

`Irfan Colloquium at Louhelen Featured Five Wilmette Institute Participants

Wilmette Institute faculty and learners contributed to success of `Irfan Colloquium. [Click here to continue>>](#)

[Help the Campaign](#) to Protect the Baha'i Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) in Iran and Free the BIHE Staff in Prison! Read about the many efforts being made and the documentary that will soon be available.

Need a Scholarship? Please Step Right Up

\$6,000 is available for student scholarships. You can be one of the lucky ones. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Hits 5,000

Registration since 1998 surpasses 5,000 mark. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Facebook Finds & Twitter Posts

Facebook Finds

A 1976 film for adults about the life of Muhammad and a 2001 animated film for children and youth will add to your understanding of Islam. [Click here to continue>>](#)

THE 99: Unbound, a comic book featuring international superheroes blessed with the

November 2011 - January 2012 Courses

[Baha'i History, 1863-2011](#)

*Lead Faculty: Robert Stockman
Faculty: Graham Hassall*

Duration of course: Three months (Nov. 1, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012)



Baha'i History, 1863-2011, 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); and the period from the election of the Universal House of Justice to the beginning decades of the twenty-first century (1963-2011). . . .

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[Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

attributes of the ninety-nine names of God, opens another avenue for understanding the essence of Islam.

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Twitter Posts

The Wilmette Institute continues to make daily posts on its Twitter page. Please "friend" the Wilmette Institute on Facebook, and follow us there and on Twitter. This month we will be tweeting about our courses on **Baha'i History, Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue**, and **`Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry**.

Android, the Web, and the Wilmette Institute: We Need Your Feedback

In anticipation of having an Android-type app of its own, the Wilmette Institute invites your feedback on its use in courses of YouTube videos and Web links.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

Our Students Speak Up

Springboard for the Five Year Plan, a four-week course on the 2010 and 2011 letters from the Universal House of Justice, was offered three times in 2011 and attracted more than 180 learners. Read how three students have used the *Springboard* course, which you can take in January 2012.

Wife Uses Springboard Course to Give Her New Husband a Snapshot of the Baha'i Community

A wife and her new husband (not a Baha'i) explore the new Five Year Plan together.

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Springboard Course Improves Computer Skills and Knowledge about Online Baha'i Resources

A learner's first online Baha'i course deepens her knowledge and improves her computer skills.

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Springboard Course Helps Connect Neighbors in a More Focused Way

Lead Faculty: Anne Pearson

Faculty: Robert Stockman

Duration of course: Three months (Nov. 15, 2011 - Feb. 15, 2012)

In Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue

we will examine the complex of religious traditions that arose in the Indian subcontinent over thousands of years. We will begin with an overview of Hinduism, defining what it is and studying its history, scriptures, and sources of authority. Then we will explore central Hindu concepts (the divine, karma, samsara/rebirth, moksha, sects, and gurus); Hindu ethics and social structures (caste/class and gender). . . .



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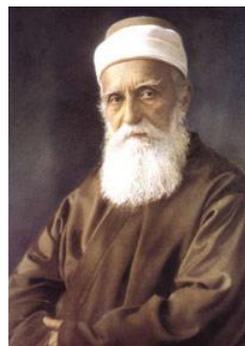
[`Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry](#)

Lead Faculty: Robert Stockman

Faculty: Anne Perry and Duane Troxel

Duration of course: Three months (Dec. 1, 2011 - Feb. 29, 2012)

`Abdu'l-Baha, the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and the Perfect Exemplar for humankind, is unique in religious history. Drawing on statements by `Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi, as well as writings by many Baha'is, we will explore `Abdu'l-Baha's life, station, roles, titles, writings, talks, travels, accomplishments, relationship to Baha'u'llah, and impact on others. We



will examine `Abdu'l-Baha's first five decades, 1844-92; His station as the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and His early years as Head of the Faith, 1892-1910; His travels and talks to Europe and North America, 1911-13, and His guidance of the Baha'is in those areas; World War I, war and peace, and the Tablets of the Divine Plan, 1914-21; His Will and Testament and His passing in 1921. . . .

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A Wilmette Institute learner teases out new ways to connect with neighbors.

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[Mark Your Calendar](#)

Feb. 1 - Apr. 30, 2012
[Century of Light](#)

Feb. 15 - May 15, 2012

[Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

Mar. 1 - May 31, 2012
[The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy](#)

Mar. 15 - June 15, 2012

[Science and Religion](#)

2012 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's 2012 course schedule, March through December 2012. All courses listed are three months long. The starting dates may change, based on faculty availability.

03/1/12
Bahá'í Faith and Philosophy

03/15/12
Science and Religion

04/01/12
`Abdu'l-Bahá in America

04/15/12
Exploring the Qur'an

05/01/12
Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

05/15/12

[Social Action and Public Discourse](#)

Lead Faculty: Tim Wood

Faculty: Farzin Aghdasi, Carl Murrell, Melanie Smith, and Matt Weinberg

Just \$75 for individuals, \$150 for groups!

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (Dec. 15, 2011 - Jan. 31, 2012)



In this course will explore social action and public discourse as it is presented in the authoritative texts of the Baha'i Faith, as well as in letters from the Universal House of Justice, and the dynamic relationship between social action and public discourse and other Baha'i activities such as teaching and the core activities. . .

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[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)

Lead Faculty: Anne Perry

Faculty: Vickie Hu Poirier and Lynne Yancy

Duration of course: Three months (Jan. 2 - Apr. 2, 2012)



The course will explore references in the Baha'i sacred texts about the arts, how art and religion have harmonized and conflicted in the past, the role of the arts in the recent past and in the Baha'i community today, and the role envisioned for the arts as a new civilization unfolds in the future.

[MORE >>](#)

[Springboard for the Five Year Plan](#)

Faculty: Timara Adams, Elizabeth Hearsh, and Ron Somerhalder

Just 50 for individuals, \$150 for groups of up to six!

Bahá'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey

06/01/12

Buddhism For Deepening and Dialogue

06/15/12

Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas

07/01/12

Exploring the Christian New Testament

07/15/12

The Advancement of Women

08/15/12

Tabernacle of Unity

09/01/12

Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

09/15/12

Introduction to Archives for Bahá'í Archivists

10/01/12

The Writings of the Báb

10/20/12

Prayers and Meditations

11/01/12

Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

11/15/12

Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

12/01/12

Bahá'í Theology

12/15/12

The Secret of Divine Civilization

Duration of course: One month (Jan. 2 - Feb. 2, 2012)



This course is designed to prepare you for participating in the new Five Year Plan (2011-16). It provides 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. . . .

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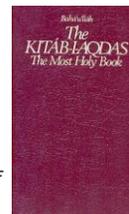
The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

Lead Faculty: Hussein Ashchi

Faculty: Moojan Momen

Duration of course: Three months (Jan. 10 - Apr. 10, 2012)

Shoghi Effendi refers to the [Kitáb-i-Aqdas](#) as "the principal repository of that Law which the Prophet Isaiah had anticipated, and which the writer of the Apocalypse had described as the 'new heaven' and the 'new earth,' as 'the Tabernacle of God,' as the 'Holy City,' as the 'Bride,' the 'New Jerusalem coming down from God,' this 'Most Holy Book,' whose provisions must remain inviolate for no less than a thousand [years](#). . . ." He adds 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". . . .



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How to Study the Baha'i Writings

Faculty: Sandra Hutchison

Just \$75 for individuals, \$150 for groups of up to six!

Duration of course: Five weeks (Jan. 20 - Feb. 25, 2012)



This five-week abbreviated version of our longer course on [How to Study the Baha'i Writings](#) 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 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 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. . . .

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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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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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[Baha'i Faith and your privacy](#)