

November 2017 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars, Conferences

Letter from the Universal House of Justice

Letter to the Baha'is of the World:

"Unbounded Joy" over Bicentenary Events

On October 31, 2017, the Universal House of Justice, unable to contain its "unbounded joy," confessed its "astonishment at the flood of grace Bahá'u'lláh has poured forth" during the bicentenary event, recognizes "the wholehearted striving of each believer," and urges us "to see in each person who responded" to our invitations "a potential protagonist in the community-building process. Read the [letter](#).

Wilmette Institute News

Bahá'í Days at Union Theological Seminary Honor Bicentenary of Bahá'u'lláh's Birth

UTS marked its agreement with the Wilmette Institute and Bahá'u'lláh's 200th birthday with Bahá'í Days featuring speakers, a proclamation, and Bahá'í devotions. [READ>>](#)



Three November Web Talks on Moving from Duality to Oneness: Get Ready for Lively Thanksgiving Dinner Discussions

Courses for Next Three Months

November 2017 - January 2018

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. Relationship coaches are available as needed for help. One couple had this to say: "The course helped a great deal to get my fiancé and me even more on the same page with regard to how the Faith was guiding our preparation, and we both managed to get consent from our families. . . . We wanted to thank you all for all your help."



[Watch the video](#)

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

NEW COURSE

How will we feed 11 billion people by the end of the century?

[Sustaining 11 Billion People: Challenges for an Ever-Advancing Civilization](#)

A new course on society and social change



Join Dr. Robert Atkinson on November 5, 12, and 18 as he discusses [many aspects of moving from duality to oneness](#) and provides Baha'i perspectives on many questions we have about our turbulent times. Sign up now.

Wilmette Institute Establishes Four Departments and Appoints Chairs

The Wilmette Institute has taken another step toward professionalizing itself by establishing four departments, two of which already have chairs and two of which will be appointed by the end of the year. [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Sets \$100,000 Fund-Raising Goal

An ambitious fund-raising goal to be sure. The Wilmette Institute sets out plenty of reasons why it needs to increase its funding to undertake audacious plans for expanding and upgrading its services. [READ>>](#)

A Library of Web Talks 24/7/365: John Hatcher on the Bicentenary and Paul Hanley on "Eleven"

Browse the Wilmette Institute's library of Web Talks. This month select two talks given in October when you were busy with bicentenary events (or recovering): John S. Hatcher explains what the bicentenary means to him. Paul Hanley discusses how we can change our ways of thinking about our planet--or end up needing five earths to support us by the end of the century. [READ>>](#)

A Different Web Talk: Baha'u'llah's Seven Valley and Seven Caribou Spirit Bowls

>A talk using an artistic piece to explore the Baha'i writings, a talk to discuss reconciliation with indigenous peoples, a talk to commemorate the bicentenary of Baha'u'llah's birth, a talk to remind us how to become our true selves: Don't miss it. [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Web Talks for October - December

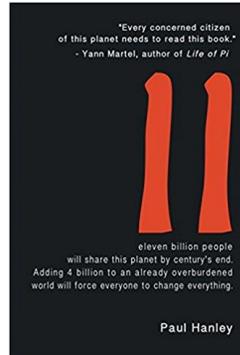
[Access information about Wilmette Institute Web Talks and lists of talks from 2015 through 2018.](#)

"From Duality to Oneness: A Baha'i Perspective on Humanity's Conscious Evolution"

Nov. 5, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (1 of 3 talks)
As humanity shifts toward an awareness of the inherent interconnectedness of all things, we will

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

Faculty: [Gary Reusche](#), [Haleh Samimi](#), [Neil Whitley](#)



Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 1 - December 19, 2017)

Baha'u'llah states that "All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization." Based on the book *Eleven*, this course investigates issues and principles involved for individuals, communities, and institutions in contributing to a sustainable civilization with 11 billion people, the UN population projection for 2100. Given that our civilization is already unsustainable, what changes are needed to ensure that humanity can advance with an additional 4 billion people? Key to this process will be an ethical revolution that will reinforce efforts to reduce humanity's ecological footprint by seeding a new global culture. **Sustaining 11 Billion People: Challenges for an Ever-Advancing Civilization** shows how the principles and plans of the Baha'i Faith directly address

these fundamental concerns.

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

NEW COURSE JUST \$50!

Explore the several covenants (binding agreements) between God and humanity

The Covenants of the Baha'i Faith

A new course in a series on the Baha'i community

Lead Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Faculty: [Brent Poirier](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 5 - December 23, 2017)



A covenant in the spiritual sense is a sacred binding agreement between God or His representative, on the one hand, and His people, on the other. In **The Covenants of the Baha'i Faith** course we will explore the Baha'i community as a covenantal people through study of a number of Covenants: first, the Primordial Covenant God made with humanity before creation; second, the Greater Covenant through which God promises to supply humanity with guidance periodically through His Manifestations; and, third, the specific Covenants of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha (sometimes called the Lesser Covenant). These specific Covenants comprise numerous texts by Baha'u'llah referring to the station and appointment of His eldest son 'Abdu'l-Baha as Head of the Faith and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha and related Tablets that establish as His successors the twin institutions of the Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice. The course aims to improve your basic knowledge of these Covenants, assist you to understand them in the context of the Baha'i revelation, and draw you personally and spiritually closer to their provisions.

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

NOW JUST \$50! How did Baha'u'llah proclaim His message to civil

explore Baha'i principles and teachings that help clarify and frame humanity's conscious transformational process.

["The Dark Night of the Collective Soul: A Baha'i Perspective on the Role and Purpose of Transformation in Society"](#)

Nov. 12, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (2 of 3 talks)
In the adolescent phase of humanity's collective development, it is experiencing a symbolic death leading to a rebirth, higher levels of consciousness, and a whole new way of seeing the world.

["Reality Is One, and Global Harmony Is Inevitable: Building a Culture of Oneness"](#)

Nov. 19, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (3 of 3 talks)
This exploration of the global movement of our time--building a culture of oneness--looks at the spiritual forces guiding us toward unity.

["A Psychology That Responds to Our Times: Transforming Inner Oppression into Awakened, Aligned, and Liberated Spirit"](#)

Dec. 3, 2017 / Elena Mustakova-Possardt
Learn about the systemic cultivation of cultures of social health that foster in people spiritual awakening and progressively more empowered alignment with planetary transformation.

["The Spiritual Destiny of America"](#)

Dec. 10, 2017 / Reba Carruth (1 of 3)
A three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Bahá'í writings, and their shared principles of governance, society, markets, scientific enlightenment for the public good, commonwealth, and protection of the natural environment.

["Ten Plagues of the Exodus in the Light of the Baha'i Writings"](#)

Jan. 14, 2018 / JoAnn Borovicka
Understanding the story of the Exodus and the plagues of Egypt and how the biblical story of the Exodus is highly relevant today.

["The Spiritual Destiny of America and the West"](#)

Jan. 21, 2018 / Reba Carruth (2 of 3)
A three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Bahá'í writings, and their shared principles.

["The Spiritual Destiny of America and the West"](#)

Feb. 4, 2018 / Reba Carruth (3 of 3)
A three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Bahá'í writings, and their shared principles.

and religious power brokers?

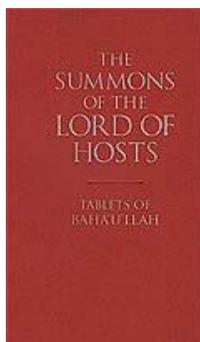
[Baha'u'llah's Proclamation to the Kings and Ecclesiastics: The Summons of the Lord of Hosts](#)

Another course in a series exploring Baha'u'llah's revelation

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 7 - December 25, 2017)



In the course **Baha'u'llah's Proclamation to the Kings and Ecclesiastics: The Summons of the Lord of Hosts** 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 to His followers, 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." "As Baha'u'llah's influence penetrates ever more deeply the life of the larger society throughout the world," the Universal House of Justice notes, "it seems especially appropriate" that the full texts of Baha'u'llah's important letters sounding the themes of His revelation be studied by "a broad readership." For texts we will use *The Summons of the Lord of Hosts* and a compilation about the tablets that provides background information.

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

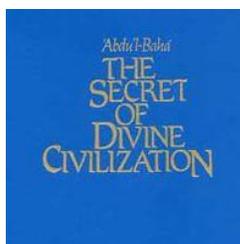
What are the spiritual prerequisites for creating true civilization?

[The Secret of Divine Civilization](#)

A course exploring the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 10 - December 28, 2017)



In **The Secret of Divine Civilization** we will study 'Abdu'l-Baha's first extensive description of Baha'i social teachings. Elaborating on principles that Baha'u'llah enunciated in His tablets to the kings and leaders of the world, the treatise describes the true nature of civilization and provides a blueprint for the "future reorganization of the world." To develop the theme of universal peace, honest government, and religion as the true bases of world order, 'Abdu'l-Baha redefines the Islamic tradition that a learned person "must guard himself, defend his faith, oppose his passions and obey the commandments of his Lord." Leaders, in particular, are called to a new standard of honesty and

his Lord." Leaders, in particular, are called to a new standard of honesty and

Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly

Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer: Save Money, Save the Planet by Insulating Your House

"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful Prayers."--'Abdu'l-Baha



November brings tips for insulating your home, which will cut down on your heating bills and contribute to the health of our planet and of our fellow human beings. [READ>>](#)

The Value of Moderation: A Focus on Wealth Inequality: A Thoughtful Letter

>Are you wondering what the concept of moderation in the Baha'i writings means? Check out the letter from ebbf (Ethical Business Building the Future) to [join the conversation about immoderation, wealth inequality, voluntary sharing, and more.](#)

News

Grave of First African American Baha'i in Washington, D.C., Found; Contribute to Her Grave Marker

Honor Pocahontas Pope, the first African American Baha'i in the Washington, D.C., Baha'i community by contributing to a fund to buy a grave marker for her unmarked grave. [READ>>](#)

Bicentenary Website to Remain on Web

Uploading events related to the bicentenary of the 200th anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah has ended, but the [bicentenary website](#) will remain as a source of inspiration to worldwide Baha'i communities as they endeavor to "apply Baha'u'llah's teachings." Among many other things, the bicentenary website contains nine video recordings from celebrations held at Baha'i Houses of Worship and sites where future Houses of Worship will be built.

Podcasts by Other Organizations

[ethical business for a better future Podcasts](#)

Episode 4: Transitioning towards the Spiritual Enterprise

Episode 5: New Approaches to Diversity as a Key

trustworthiness. We will thus look at the complementary processes of personal transformation and social development, leading to a reorganization of the world. We will also examine the book as an early example of public discourse and consider how we can use it to improve our own efforts in public discourse.

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

How does the equality of the sexes contribute to a peaceful society?

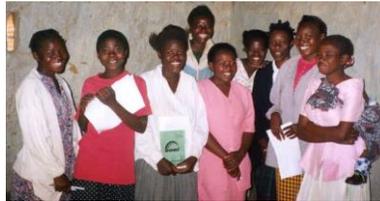
The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Public and Private Life

Another course on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Vasu Mohan](#)

Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 15, 2017 - January 3, 2018)



In **The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life** we will aim to acquire a thorough understanding of the Baha'i principle of the equality of women and men and to explore its application in personal development, family life, and the workplace; in Baha'i communities; and in engaging with public discourses. Topics addressed include the

nature of human identity; equality in the family and society; gender roles in governance and peace-building; gender-based violence; men and boys as partners in achieving equality; and the role of the media in perpetuating or challenging gender inequality. We will draw on the Baha'i writings, as well as on analysis and commentary from a variety of sources, and review case studies of successful initiatives and communities working toward gender equality in the private and public spheres. We will give special attention to champions of equality from Baha'i history. Participation from both male and female learners is strongly encouraged to maximize opportunities for learning.

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

NEW COURSE

How does spiritual and physical intimacy contribute to a solid marriage?

Linking Spiritual and Physical Intimacy in Marriage

A new addition to courses on marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Riaz Mostaghim](#)

Resource to Your Enterprise

Conferences and Colloquia

[Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse](#) / Nov. 9-12, 2017

2017 Southern BNASSA Conference Retreat
Magdalene Carney Baha'i Institute
West Palm Beach, FL, USA

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

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Feb. 16-18, 2018

Eighth Annual Arts & Scholars Symposium
Theme: "Finding Common Belief"
Call for papers ends Jan. 17, 2018.

Registration is open.

[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)

/ May 17-20, 2018

"Rethinking Governance, Exploring New Frameworks for Decision-Making and Action"

Geneva, Switzerland
Registration is open.

[Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference](#) / Aug. 9-12, 2018

Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta, GA, USA

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

"The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change"
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

Duration of course: Three weeks (November 28 - December 15, 2017)

Intimacy in the bedroom is a strong unifying factor in a healthy marriage. In **Linking Spiritual and Physical Intimacy in Marriage**, couples are invited to expand their understanding of some spiritual principles related to physical intimacy. Participants will learn about practical ways to enhance marital unity and move toward a rich, passionate, and enjoyable intimate relationship. Note: Personal privacy boundaries means there will be no requirement to discuss specifics about your relationship in the course Forum. All learners will have access to a wide range of marriage enrichment resources. Suitable for married and engaged couples.



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

How can you talk effectively about the world's chaos and the bright future ahead?

Responding Effectively to Global Challenges: Three World Order of Baha'u'llah Letters

One in a series of courses exploring the writings of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: [Betty J. Fisher](#)
Faculty: [Sherna Deamer](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 28, 2017 - January 15, 2018)

When war broke out in the Middle East in 2003, the Universal House of Justice noted the "animating effect of the spirit of unrest pervading the planet," the unfolding of the Lesser Peace, and the implications for the "progress" of the Baha'i community and the "evolution of an increasingly global society in the throes of a turbulent transition." It also noted the "feelings of grievance and outrage" of "people across the globe," their "sorrows, fears and perplexities," "anxieties," and anger, all adding to the "chaos and confusion." For the Baha'is, however, the House of Justice said that "they have only to recall the vision and principles offered by the Faith if they are to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the spread of distress and dismay." In **Responding Effectively to Global Challenges**, we will "strive to understand more deeply the Teachings that are relevant" to global unrest by reviewing three letters by Shoghi Effendi published in *The World Order of Baha'u'llah*: "The Goal of a New World Order," "America and the Most Great Peace," and "The Unfoldment of a World Civilization." Our goal is to understand more clearly the chaos in the world and the bright future ahead and to prepare ourselves to participate in meaningful conversations.



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

Learn how you can help preserve the history of a young Faith

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](#)
[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

NEW COURSE: [Racism: The Most Challenging Issue](#)
February 1 - April 4, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Spiritually Nurturing Your Baby During Pregnancy](#)
February 5 - March 18, 2018

[The Writings of the Bab](#)
February 10 - April 6, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Enhancing Love and Friendship in Your Marriage](#)
February 12 - March 12, 2018

['Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry](#)
February 20 - April 16, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Lawh-i-Sultan](#)
February 25 - March 25, 2018

[Health Care and Social Action](#)
March 7 - April 24, 2018

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places

One in a series on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)
Faculty: [Thelma Batchelor](#), [Roger Dahl](#), [Richard Hollinger](#), [Jenny Lockwood](#), [Adam Thorne](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 1, 2017 - January 18, 2018)

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places is designed to help Baha'is who wish to compose a memoir about their own lives, produce a biography of a Baha'i mentor, or write the history of their local Baha'i community. Units in the first half of the course will cover such topics as selecting a topic and settling on an audience; the philosophy and ethics of writing biographies and history; collecting oral history; research in archives and libraries and on the web; organizing notes and outlining the topic. In the second half of the course, participants will pursue a research and writing project with support and advice from the faculty. The Wilmette Institute may be interested in publishing some short histories, biographies, and memoirs on its public website.



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

Find out more about the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith

Baha'i Theology

A course in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Mikhail Sergeev](#)
Faculty: [Ian Kluge](#)

Duration of course: Ten weeks (December 7 - February 14, 2018)

Baha'i Theology provides an in-depth study of the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith that deal with the study of God, creation, and the relationship between them. The units are organized around a series of topics such as creation and evolution, the nature of God's Manifestations and their revelations, religious ethics, and theology in action. This course is ideal for both Baha'is and others who want to delve more deeply into the teachings of the Faith.



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

A chance to learn more about the Guardian's multifaceted contributions to the growth of the Faith

[Three Charters of the Faith: The Tablet of Carmel, The Tablets of the Divine Plan, and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha](#)
March 10 - April 27, 2018

[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)
March 15 - April 25, 2018

[Some Answered Questions](#)
March 25 - May 19, 2018

April - December 2018 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for April through December 2018. The schedule is subject to change.

Second Term (April - June 2018)

Climate Change
April 1 - May 16, 2018

NEW COURSE: Baha'i Institutions, the Community, and the Individual
April 5 - April 21, 2018

NEW COURSE: Native American Culture and the Sacred
April 15 - June 2, 2018

The Advent of Divine Justice
April 25 - June 12, 2018

The Hebrew Bible
May 1 - June 18, 2018

The Bab and the Babi Movement
May 5 - June 22, 2018

NEW COURSE: Helping Children Navigate Media and Screen Time
May 7 - June 10, 2018

Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas
May 10 - June 28, 2018

Introduction to Islam
May 15 - July 2, 2018

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith
May 20 - July 7, 2018

One Common Faith
June 1 - July 19, 2018

Conscious Parenting of 3 and 4 Year Olds
June 4 - July 8

Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry

A course in the series on Baha'i history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)
Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 10, 2017 - January 27, 2018)



In **Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry** we will look briefly at the unique position held by Shoghi Effendi, his childhood and youth (1897-1921), and more extensively at his ministry as Guardian of the Baha'i Faith (1921-57). We will consider the many roles Shoghi Effendi filled (builder, interpreter, author, and translator) as he carried out his duties as Guardian in fostering the growth and development of the Baha'i Faith. He devoted much of his ministry to building the administrative order outlined by Baha'u'llah and elaborated by 'Abdu'l-Baha in His Will and Testament and to using it as an instrument for fostering the international spread of the Baha'i Faith called for by 'Abdu'l-Baha in the Tablets of the Divine Plan. Shoghi Effendi also worked tirelessly to extend

and beautify the properties of the Baha'i World Center in Haifa and Acre, to erect the facade of the Shrine of the Bab, and to prepare a physical home for the center of the administrative order. Shoghi Effendi translated many writings of Baha'u'llah into English, translated and edited a history of the Babi period of the Faith, penned thousands of letters clarifying basic Baha'i teachings, and wrote the classic history of the first hundred years of the Faith's beginnings. His devotion, self-sacrifice, and suffering are an inspiration to Baha'is of all generations.

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

Study the prerequisites of world peace to enrich your conversations with like-minded friends

The Promise of World Peace

One in a series of society and social change

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

Duration of course: Six weeks (December 15, 2017 - January 25, 2018)

Baha'i Principles as They Relate to Discourses on Governance
June 10 - July 28, 2018

Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey
June 15 - August 2, 2018

Economics and the Baha'i Faith
June 20 - August 8, 2018

Third Term (July - August 2018)

Introduction to Buddhism
July 1 - August 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple
July 8 - July 30, 2018

Building a World Federation
August 15 - October 3, 2018

The Tabernacle of Unity
August 20 - October 8, 2018

The Destiny of America
August 25 - October 13, 2018

Fourth Term (September - December 2018)

Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind
September 1 - October 19, 2018

Fostering a Baha'i Identity in Children
September 3 - October 28, 2018

The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction
September 10 - October 29, 2018

Introduction to Baha'i History, 1844-Present
September 15 - November 13, 2018

Consulting as a Couple: Understanding and Decision
September 17 - October 8, 2018

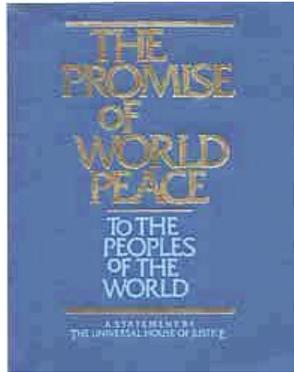
Sharing the Twin Birthdays with Children
September 17 - October 28, 2018

Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice of Creative Writing
September 25 - November 13, 2018

The Book of Isaiah
October 1 - November 19, 2018

The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story
October 5 - November 22, 2018

The Baha'i Faith and Social Change



The Promise of World Peace was a ground-breaking document when the Universal House of Justice issued it in 1985. Its discussions of issues necessary for achieving peace (religion; subordinating national self-interest to the requirements of world order; eliminating racism, disparities between rich and poor, and nationalism; emancipating women; abolishing war; accepting the oneness of humankind) remain as relevant today, perhaps even more so. This course will take us through the text in depth and familiarize us with the document's themes and arguments so that we can draw on them in our conversations and discourses. We will enrich our understanding by engaging with documents and videos from Baha'i and other sources.

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

How can fun, laughter, and vitality create a unified friendships, marriages, and communities?

Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter

One in a series about creating a balanced lifestyle

Lead Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

Faculty: [Fiona McDonald](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 26, 2017 - February 9, 2018)

'Abdu'l-Baha tells us to "laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy" by us. In **Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter**, come build unified friendships, relationships, marriages, and communities with this light-hearted skill-building course. Expand your ability to deepen friendships, have fun together, extend hospitality, share humorous stories, take a lighter approach to challenges, and more. The course is excellent preparation for couple dates, neighborhood and family activities, and social events. Please invite your friends.



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

How can you hone your skills for interfaith dialogue?

Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

A course in a series on Baha'i thought

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

October 10 - November 28, 2018

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf
October 15 - December 3, 2018

Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry
October 20 - December 8, 2018

Building Intercultural Understanding as a Couple
October 22 - November 19, 2018

Communication Skills for Spiritually Minded Parents
October 29 - December 16, 2018

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories
of People and Places
November 1 - December 19, 2018

Introduction to Shi'i Islam
November 15 - January 2, 2019

Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith
December 1 - January 18, 2018

The Promise of World Peace
December 5 - January 23, 2019

Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue
December 15 - February 12, 2019

Click [here](#) for the 2018 course schedule.

Faculty: [JoAnn Borovika](#), [Anne Pearson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 5 - February 22, 2018)

At a time when the "world-devouring fire" of religious fanaticism is spreading, and fundamentalism is rife, while, simultaneously, growing numbers of people consider themselves spiritual but not religious, the need to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue is growing. In **Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue** we will explore how to respectfully participate in dialogue with people of all faiths and no faith in a learning mode. Inspired by the Baha'i Faith's call to "Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship," we will draw on Baha'i and other resources to learn about theoretical and practical aspects of local interfaith dialogue. We will also look at the importance of public discourse about the role of religion in society and will focus on sharing ideas, insights, and perspectives on interfaith relations to broaden our understanding and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.



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

You, too, can learn how to help maintain the records (archives) of your community

[How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives](#)

One in a series of courses on Baha'i community and administration

Lead Faculty: [Roger Dahl](#)

Faculty: [Sue Rishworth](#), [Lois Walker](#)

Duration of course: Three months (January 8 - April 8, 2018)

How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives

introduces those of you working in local and national Baha'i archives to principles that will help you organize and maintain your archival collections. Hence you will need permission from the appropriate Spiritual Assembly. Two units will cover basic archival principles, including the acquisition, arrangement, and processing of records, personal papers, and photographs. Another unit will guide you as you work on an archival project: either a survey of your archives or advanced work on a project of your choosing. The last unit will guide you through a final report and proposal to your Local or National Spiritual Assembly. The course is organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives and taught by three Baha'i archivists.



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

NEW COURSE

How is friendship related to dating, courtship, and marriage?

[Exploring Friendship, Dating, and Courtship](#)

A course in a series on relationships, parenting, and family life

Lead Faculty: [Leslie Asplund](#), [Susanne Alexander](#)
Faculty: [Marabeth Lum](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 9 - February 2, 2018)

Relationships are an adventure in a world that seems to keep re-defining them. Explore with us the Baha'i teachings that encourage friendship as a component of relationships and marriage. Learn together about the many ways to know someone's character and connect with them on a deeper level. Discuss how to apply spiritual principles to developing a relationship that could lead to marriage. The course is suitable for people not yet in a relationship and for those in the beginning stages of one.



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

How can the Kitab-i-Aqdas help you understand Baha'u'llah's new world order?

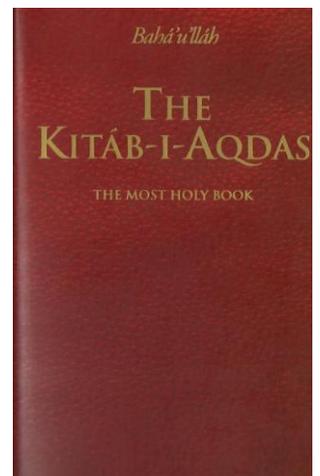
[Introduction to the Kitab-i-Aqdas](#)

A pivotal course for exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 10 - February 28, 2018)

About the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Shoghi Effendi has written 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." He further refers to the Kitab-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, and whose system will embrace the entire planet. . . ." We will read the Kitab-i-Aqdas and supplemental texts related to it, while studying several of its main themes: covenant, succession, and manifestation; Baha'i institutions, including the rulers and the learned, the Universal House of Justice, Houses of Worship, Feasts, Holy Days, and the Baha'i calendar; the nature and purpose of Baha'u'llah's laws; Baha'u'llah's ordinances; prohibitions and punishments; Baha'u'llah's proclamations to kings, rulers, places, and groups of people; education and transformation; and teaching the Baha'i Faith.



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

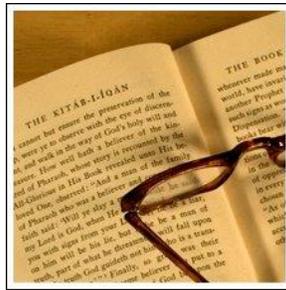
How can you learn better ways to read the Baha'i writings deeply and systematically?

[Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings](#)

A course to help you read and understand the Baha'i writings better

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 15 - March 3, 2018)



Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings introduces students to a systematic method of studying Baha'i scripture using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course, we will view passages from Baha'i scripture through four "windows" on the meaning of divine wisdom: language, theme, structure, and the work as a whole. We will also discuss briefly five other "windows": biography, historical context, oeuvre (the place of a work in the entire body of the author's works), literary tradition, and world scriptural tradition. The course is designed to help students

learn to read slowly and carefully and to assist them in developing tools for analyzing Baha'i texts systematically.

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

Why is agriculture and food essential to the reconstruction of the world?

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

One of many Wilmette Institute courses on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 20 - March 9, 2018)

Baha'u'llah described agriculture as a "a vital and important matter" that was foremost among the principles "conducive to the advancement of mankind and to the reconstruction of the world." 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.

[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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