

December 2008 - February 2009 Courses

The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: Helen Wilson

Faculty: Zaid Lundberg

Duration of course: Three months (Dec. 1, 2008 – Feb. 28, 2009)

This course studies the ministry of Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, looking briefly at his childhood and youth (1897-1921) and more thoroughly at his ministry as Guardian of the Baha'i Faith, a position to which his grandfather 'Abdu'l-Baha appointed him in His Will and Testament and which he held from 1921 until his death in 1957.

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Baha'i Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Humanity, Creation, Afterlife, and the Covenant

Lead Faculty: Peter Terry

Faculty: Ian Kluge and Duane Troxel

Duration of course: Three months (Dec. 15, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009)

This course on Baha'i Theology (the study of God and creation and of the relationship between them) provides an in-depth study of many of the fundamental spiritual teachings of the Baha'i Faith.

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Health and Spirituality

Lead Faculty: Marleen Chase

Faculty: Claire Levesque, Phillip Tussing and Theo Cope

Duration of course: Three months (Jan. 15 - Apr. 15, 2009)

This course will explore the interrelationship between health and spirituality in Baha'i texts and in recent research literature. From spiritual and scientific perspectives, it will examine the role of spiritual qualities, mind, nutrition, prevention, lifestyle, stress, suffering, and aging on physical and mental health.

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Kitáb-i-Aqdas

Lead Faculty: Hussein Achtchi

Faculty: Necati Alkan

Duration of course: Three months (Feb. 1 - Apr. 30, 2009)

Shoghi Effendi 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..."

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Exploring the Christian New Testament

Lead Faculty: Peter Terry

Faculty: Ted Brownstein and Wolfgang Klebel

The Christian New Testament is a collection of letters and historical works about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Composed by a dozen different writers between 50 and 120 C.E., the works were accepted as a sacred collection in the third and fourth Christian centuries. The course will study the New Testament's major books in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. The course's units will cover the Gospels, writings attributed to the Apostles; Hebrews and the Book of Revelation; and the Apocrypha. The course aims to help learners understand the beginnings of Christianity in order to appreciate the Baha'i Faith more deeply and to explain the Baha'i Faith to Christians more effectively

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Student News

The Impact of the Wilmette Institute:

A Student Falls in Love with the Master

Tracy Frank of Missoula, Montana, shared the following about `Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry:

I want to thank the Wilmette Institute from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to participate in the course on `Abdu'l-Baha. I may have never found the Balyuzi biography without your pointing out the importance of it to me. I read from it every night until I finished it. And because of the nightly invitation into His life, I found the perfect inspiration for acute and chronic issues going on in my own life. I've ordered everything I could find that Abdu'l-Baha has written so I can spend time with him every day for the rest of my life... I was reading from Balyuzi one evening and came upon a speech that He gave on 10/12/1912 at "Temple of Emmanu-El to a Jewish congregation of some two thousand people." This speech spoke voluminous truth to me, and I thought it to be a great vehicle for teaching one of many of `Abdu'l-Baha's peace statements. I have made copies of it and plan to send one to each of my brothers. I also have been thinking of broadcasting it, like seed, all around my town, with a Baha'i card stapled to it and a note that it's a proclamation of peace and unity. I will read it at my upcoming devotional.

Thanks again to the Wilmette Institute for teaching me the importance of daily reading, contemplation, deepening, and discussion of the lives of the Central Figures, and the wealth of writings that They gave us. Hope we will have the opportunity to inspire each other again.

The Impact of the Wilmette Institute:

A Long-time Student Comments

Barbara Henes of Germantown, Wisconsin, said this about the importance of the Wilmette Institute to her:

I love these classes, both for their content of texts, and also for the exchanges in the forums. I have come to love that there is never a definitive "eureka" moment, but ongoing, and loving openings in understanding. A better understanding of the difference between proselytizing and teaching (or as I like to use the term - facilitating) is a very important concept to grasp and will help us to more effectively reach out to the peoples of the wonderfully diverse spiritual traditions that surround us

The Impact of the Wilmette Institute:

Another Student Comments

Barbara Ellis-Woroch of Pleasantville, New York, speaks of the importance of the Wilmette Institute to her:

If it wasn't for Green Acre and the Wilmette Institute, I don't think I would be a Baha'i today. I have the additional knowledge so important that I don't know how I would have gotten the whole picture just by Baha'i meetings, although they are very good.

I told some people I was taking classes at the Wilmette Institute and they did not even know what it was. This program has helped me so much that I cannot express how thankful I am to have found out about it.

A person really needs to have a deeper understanding of what is going on in the Faith and how to become a well-informed Baha'i. I have only been a Baha'i for two years and I can't believe that each assembly doesn't have a Wilmette group going on at all times. I think it should be a goal. A new Baha'i, especially, really needs a good basic, strong foundation. Once I get a little more knowledgeable about

the Faith, I think I will try to promote Wilmette local study groups to others or actually offer them at my location.

As far as I am concerned, the Wilmette Institute and Green Acre are the best thing. It is not easy learning on your own and a lot of Baha'is don't have answers to your questions. This is helping me so much.

[Download PDF of this eNewsletter \(8.79 mbs\)](#)

The Wilmette Institute was established in January 1995 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States. The Institute offers quality online courses on the Bahá'í Faith. It is committed to engaging a broad and diverse community of learners in deep study of the Faith and to fostering love for study of the Faith.

All online courses include Web-based discussion boards for students and faculty, regular conference calls, systematic lesson plans, and a wide variety of learning projects to help students apply their learning in their local communities.

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[Upcoming Courses](#)

December 1, 2008 - February 28, 2009:

The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

December 15, 2008 - March 15, 2009:

Baha'i Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Humanity, Creation, Afterlife, and the Covenant

January 15, 2009 - April 15, 2009:

Health and Spirituality

February 1, 2009 - April 30, 2009:

Kitab-i-Aqdas

February 15, 2009 - May 15, 2009:

Exploring the Christian New Testament

March 1, 2009 - May 31, 2009:

World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters

March 15, 2009 - June 15, 2009:

Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

April 15, 2009 - July 15, 2009:

Baha'i History, 1863-2000

June 1, 2009 - August 31, 2009:

Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

June 15, 2009 - September 15, 2009:

Qur'an

July 15, 2009 - October 15, 2009:

Women in the Baha'i Faith

August 15, 2009 - November 15, 2009:

The Advent of Divine Justice

September 7, 2009 - December 7, 2009:

Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed

after the Kitab-i-Aqdas

October 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009:

Mining the Gems:

Development of the Individual

October 15, 2009 - January 15, 2010:

Sustainable Development and

the Prosperity of Humankind

November 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010:

Chinese Religion for Deepening and Dialogue

December 15, 2009 - March 15, 2010:

How to Study the Baha'i Writing

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