



January 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 January - March 2017

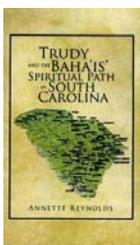
Wilmette Institute News

New Course on the Hands of the Cause of God Available for Registration: Rededicate Your Life of Service to Baha'u'llah

A new course on the Hands of the Cause of God is now available for registration at a low, mouth-watering price, which is even lower for seniors, students, and pioneers. Originally designed for year-of-service youth and volunteers, the February course is sure to make you think about ways in which the lives of the Hands and their contributions to the safety and growth of the Baha'i Faith can inspire you to rededicate your own life to Baha'u'llah and service to the Cause. [READ>>](#)



"The Baha'i Spiritual Path in South Carolina": First 2017 Web Talk



Be among the first sign up for 2017's first Wilmette Institute Web Talk. Annette Reynolds, a long-time Baha'i herself, will talk about Trudy White, an even longer-time Baha'i, and others who were part of the expansion of the Baha'i Faith in South Carolina and their efforts to build spiritual communities in the Palmetto State. [READ>>](#)

Web Talk for 150th Anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's Epistle of the Kings: Historical Context That Informs What Bahá'u'lláh Said To Whom and Why

Here is a Web Talk (cc/subtitles) that will help you prepare for the bicentennial anniversary of Baha'u'llah's birth. At the same time, it will give you insight both into His first



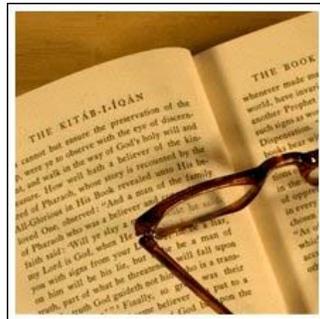
Expand your capacity for reading and understanding the Baha'i writings

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

A course exploring the Baha'i writings in general

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 7 - February 24, 2017)



Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings introduces learners to a systematic method of studying any Baha'i scripture by using a number of literary and exegetical tools. 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 literal and 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. The course will also examine

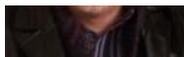
quickly five other "windows" into the meaning of scripture: the oeuvre (body of works), the biography, the times, the literary tradition, and the world scriptural tradition.

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

Understand more about building relationships as a step toward marriage

[Thinking of Relationships and](#)

open proclamation of His mission to the rulers and kings of His time and into the turbulent times in which we are now living. [READ>>](#)



Number of 2017 Web Talks Continues to Grow, Including One for the Bicentennial of Baha'u'llah's Birth

The number of Wilmette Institute Web Talks has grown by four, bringing the number to eleven, including an extra talk on the Twin Birthdays of Baha'u'llah and the Bab and the bicentennial of the birth of Baha'u'llah. Check out the new speakers, dates, and topics. [READ>>](#)

Plenty of Choices: Deepenings, Firesides, Preparing for Elevated Conversations, History, and Deep Reflection on the Creative Words

As 2017 begins, the number of Wilmette Institute Web Talks has grown to 21. We are beginning to suggest categories, which may make it easier to select a talk that will help you connect your project to the Five Year Plan. Suggestions include talks that help you "realize how society" around you "can be refashioned"; understand history better; and cultivate "the habit of study and deep reflection upon the Creative Words" to effect "transformation" in yourself and to gain the "ability to express" your "understanding of profound concepts and to explore spirituality in conversations of significance." [READ>>](#)

Closing in on Fund-Raising Goal

The Wilmette Institute's fund-raising goal for the fiscal year is \$55,000. Now we need a drum roll: The amount received to date is \$54,598.44! That is only \$401.56 short of the goal. Who will be the donor that puts us over the top? Remember, the real goal is scholarships for needy students worldwide. [Click here](#) for a Contribution Form and instructions for U.S. Baha'is about making online contributions.

Contributions to Public Discourse

The Baha'i Studies Unit Presents on Race and Religion at the American Academy of Religion's 2016 Annual Conference

"The Most Challenging Issue: Religion and Race in the Baha'i community" was the theme for the Baha'i Studies Panel at the 2016 annual conference of the American Academy of Religion held in San Antonio in November. Read about the four presentations slated, along with four additional articles, for publication in a volume about race and Religion in the Baha'i Faith. [READ>>](#)

Call for Papers for Baha'i Studies Unit at 2017 American Academy of Religion Conference: Deadline March 1

A March 1 deadline beckons for submitting abstracts for the Baha'i Studies Unit at the 2017 American Academy of Religion Conference. The topic for the 2017 panel is "Religion and Public Discourse in an Age of Transition." For the Call for Papers and other details, [READ>>](#)

UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7, 2017

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) this year falls on February 1-7, 2017. The United Nations

Marriage?

Part of a series on the individual, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#), [Wendi Momen](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 13 - February 24, 2017)



Are you excited or uncertain about being in a relationship? Are you wondering, "Why get married?" Come explore, and learn new perspectives and ways of preparing for positive experiences. Building a relationship can be a natural part of your life journey to establish a close connection with someone. **Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?** will help you navigate through a coherent process of building a friendship, assessing character, understanding male-female relationships, and being of service together. Your learning will position you to make significant decisions about dating, courtship, and the broader horizon of marriage. This course is intended *primarily* for single individuals not yet in a relationship or individuals or couples in a relationship; others are welcome.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn why agriculture is essential for reconstructing the world and how you can make it part of your core activities
COURSE FULL. Click register to add your name to the waiting list.

Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food

One in a series of courses exploring aspects of a global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 15 - March 5, 2017)



Baha'u'llah describes agriculture as "a vital and important matter" that is foremost among the principles for "the advancement of mankind and the reconstruction of the world" (*Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed After the Kitab-i-Aqdas* 89, 90). Yet current agricultural policy often prioritizes yield and profit over health and sustainability, while the poor struggle to 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 the core activities, community-building, and emerging social action.

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

Course full. We will rerun the course in a few months. To add your name to the waiting list, click on "Register."

Delve into what Baha'u'llah says about the individual's relationship to spiritual reality

Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings

A course exploring one aspect of the revelation of Baha'u'llah

proclaimed the week in October 2016 as an annual event to be held during the first week of February; the first one was held in 2011. According to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, "World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrates the principles of tolerance and respect for the other that are deeply rooted in the world's major religions. The observance is also a summons to solidarity in the face of those who spread misunderstanding and mistrust." Click [here](#) to read his message.

**Living Responsibly
Making Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer:
Search as Service!**

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

'Abdu'l-Baha

This month we are introducing a new feature in the Wilmette Institute eNewsletter. Every month we will publish an action that will help you be more socially and environmentally responsible in your life. Feel free to send us ideas. *January's action is this:* Search as Service! Instead of using Google to search for an answer to your question, use the search engine <https://www.ecosia.org/>. You will get the answer you need. But, more important, [Ecosia](#) will plant a tree for every search you make (using 80 percent of its revenue for the project). Forests are important for biodiversity and water security. They are also good for the climate (they absorb carbon dioxide) and make for happy people. In nine months, one Baha'i "planted" 507 trees and counting.



A Time for Selfless Service: ebbf Asks for Examples from Your Workplace

"In our contemporary society, engaging in service is often seen as a pastime activity," ebbf says, "as an add-on when one has satisfied all other needs." However, it goes on to say, "we view service as in reality an over-arching principle and as a general attitude which should be employed in every action, including in our work/profession pursuits." [Read](#) the letter from the ebbf Board and share "your own experience of selfless service in your workplace." Or use the letter as the basis of a fireside or deepening on service.

Official Digital Report of the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions Now Available

The wait for the Official Digital [Report](#) of the October 2015 Parliament of the World's Religion is finally over. The 72-page report is available on the web and also as a printable PDF version. It has a great table of contents and is filled with colorful photographs and graphs. But the report is not pages and pages of written reports. If you see the photograph of someone whose talk you wish to listen to, click on the photograph and you have a seat at the talk. Baha'is are mentioned on pages 14, 52, 54, and 69. This report may inspire you to plan for the next Parliament to be held in 2017. The city will be announced soon.

Improving Wikipedia Articles in Hebrew on the Baha'i Faith

Read in Shai Katz' article "[It's a win win project](#):" An interview with Sivan Lerer, a teacher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem" how new Wikipedia articles in Hebrew on the Baha'i Faith

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 22 - March 4, 2017)



In *Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings* we will explore a theme that dominates Baha'u'llah's early writings and continues throughout His revelation: the relationship of the individual to spiritual reality--to God, to spiritual truths, to principles of personal development, and to laws of conduct. We will explore Baha'u'llah's *Rashh-i-'Ama* and some of His early poetry, *The Four Valleys*, *The Seven Valleys*, *The Hidden Words*, and *the Tablet of the Holy Mariner*. We will also read some Sufi texts that

provide historical and literary context for allusions Baha'u'llah uses in His writings. We will round out our study with extensive commentaries and study materials by Baha'is on Baha'u'llah's early mystic writings.

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

Study the New Testament to prepare yourself for elevated conversations with Christians

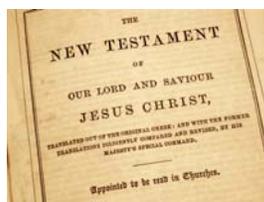
Exploring the New Testament

One in a series of courses on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 1 - March 21, 2017)



The Christian New Testament is a collection of chronicles and letters that pertain to the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, known as Christ. Composed by numerous writers, the works were accepted as a sacred collection in the third and fourth Christian centuries. In **Exploring the New Testament**, we will study the New Testament's major books in the light of progressive revelation and in their historical context. We will cover the

Gospels; writings attributed to James, Jude, Paul, and Peter; the Book of Revelation; and specific themes in the New Testament. We will also briefly examine the vast Christian literature that did not become part of the approved "canon" now known as the New Testament. Our study of the New Testament is for the purposes of deepening and dialogue--that is, for understanding the basics of Christianity as a divinely revealed religion (and, by comparison, the Baha'i Faith) and for learning how to share the perspective of the Baha'i Faith with a variety of Christians in an informed and respectful manner.

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

NEW COURSE

Start now preparing for the 2017 and 2019 anniversaries of the births of the Bab and Baha'u'llah

The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story

Another in a series of courses on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Druzelle Cederquist](#)

Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 7 - March 28, 2017)

were written and existing ones corrected. Sivan has been teaching an introduction to the Baha'i Faith for seven years, was in despair over the low quality of web sources on the topic, took a tip from her brother-in-law at Haifa University who has having his students write Wikipedia courses for credit, and created a program within her course for her students to write or update articles on the Baha'i Faith.

Learners in Action

A Reflection from a Multiple-Course (Nineteen to Be Exact) Alumnus

"It is a personal perception that there is a special uniqueness to the Wilmette Institute process. There are valuable heart connections at other learning opportunities, which are essential, but what makes the Wilmette Institute special are the questions daily embedded in my mind though posts and readings, questions that keep reaching out for answers, questions that reach out for deeper understandings."--Dan Enslow, Bloomington, Indiana, USA



A Tribute to Paula Bidwell (1953-2016)

An On-Ramp to the Freeway of Knowledge about Native American Peoples: Journeys in Understanding



Seven learners from the last course Paula Bidwell organized and taught share how much they learned from her course called **Native American Religion and Spirituality**. Each writes movingly about what they

learned about American history, past and present (think Standing Rock); how their thoughts and habits of speech and actions changed; how they learned to talk to and about Native Americans; how they learned the difference between cultural misappropriation and cultural exchange. To see an art project and to learn more, [READ>>](#)

News

International Environmental Forum's December Issue of "Leaves" Available

You can now browse the December issue of [Leaves](#) published by the International Environmental Forum in a light version with fewer illustrations or download it in a PDF format (the editors strongly suggest the latter). You will find articles, a book review, photographs, information on upcoming events, reports on a variety of conferences, upcoming Wilmette Institute courses, and much, much more, including stunning photographs of a variety of leaves.

e*lix*ir Journal Publishes Issue Devoted to the Spiritual Lives of Children

The latest issue of the electronic journal *e*lix*ir*, devoted to the spiritual lives of children, is a must read for every one of us, connected as



In **The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story**, we will delve into the dramatic story at the heart of the Holy Anniversary years 2017 and 2019 as the Baha'i world prepares to celebrate the births of Baha'u'llah and the Bab. From Shiraz to Tabriz, from the affluent courtyards of Tehran to the prison-city of Acre, *The Story of Baha'u'llah: Promised One of All Religions*, the text for the course, brings to life the story of the Twin Manifestations at the origin of the Baha'i Faith: the Bab ("the Gate") and Baha'u'llah ("the Glory of God"), each with a distinct but connected mission. Together their revelations are intended for a humanity about to enter a new evolutionary

stage--the maturity of the human race. The story unfolds in two parts. *Part One: The Dawn* introduces Baha'u'llah in Tehran and interweaves events in the life of the Bab and His principal disciples, basic facts about Islam, and millennial expectations of Christians. *Part Two: The Sun in Its Splendor* recounts the dramatic events of life in exile for Baha'u'llah and His family, together with highlights of His writings and the emerging significance of 'Abdu'l-Baha. Throughout our study, references to world events and well-known American figures add context. We will also discuss some basic guidance about storytelling so that in a supportive environment you can explore and practice sharing these stories yourself, whether in a conversation with a friend or in a more formal setting. There are no hard storytelling requirements; the joy is in learning how simple it can be.

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

Prepare yourself for understanding Islam in the way 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi encouraged us to do

[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

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

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 15 - April 4, 2017)



In **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue** we will begin with a survey of the life of Muhammad, a Manifestation of God, and a review of the origins, development, and content of the Qur'an, including the teachings and practices of Islam. We will then examine the Sunni/Shiite split over issues of succession and authority and discuss Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, and the Sufi poetic tradition. Finally, we will turn to contemporary Islam and to Islam and other religions, including the Baha'i Faith. With ongoing anti-Islamic sentiment throughout the world, there is no better time to improve our understanding of

one of the world's most important and influential religions and to prepare for discussing it with Christian and Muslim friends and neighbors.

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

NEW COURSE

Study the Hands of the Cause of God for role models for your contributions to the Five Year Plan

[The Hands of the Cause of God: Paths of Service](#)

we are by the Five Year Plan to the spiritual education of children. The issue contains an editorial on the subject, fiction, poetry, an excerpt from a picture book, two essays, an interview, art, and (very special) a provisional translation of a prayer by 'Abdu'l-Baha for children (the Persian is also included). It is hard to convey in a few sentences how beautiful and engaging the issue is. [Click here](#) to see for yourself.



Reference Materials

A New Collection of Letters from Shoghi Effendi Not Included in Published Compilations

Don Calkins, a Baha'i from Great Falls, Montana, has provided a great service by collecting and making available letters from and written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi not published in existing compilations. Not only that, he is now making them available on a website. [READ>>](#)

A New Website of Historic Photographs, Recordings, Talks, and 1970s Music

Want to hear *Fire and Snow* or *Can't You See the New Day* again? For those interested in historical photographs, reminiscences, and recordings, including fourteen Hands of the Cause of God;



photographs of Mark Tobey, a Baha'i and a renowned American artist whose paintings were influenced by Asian calligraphy; images of Baha'is around the world; and music from the 1970s, here is a new resource made available by Greg Dahl. [READ>>](#)

Web Talks/Webinars on the Ministry of the Custodians; South Carolina Baha'is; Baha'i Perspectives on Globalization and Current Events; Economics; The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an; and More

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / Jan. TBD, 2017

Shaheen Tedjarati

"The Ministry of the Custodians: Six Years That Changed History and Shaped a Faith's Destiny" Check ABS website for registration information.

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Jan. 22, 2017

Annette Reynolds

"Trudy [White] and Baha'is' Spiritual Path in South Carolina"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Feb. 12, 2017

Greg Dahl

"Globalization and Current Events--A Baha'i Perspective"

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Feb. 15, 2017

Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham

"Secessionism, Violence, and Nonviolence"

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / Feb. 16, 2017

Todd Lawson

One in a series of courses on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Brent Poirier](#)

Faculty: [Barron Harper](#)

Duration of course: One month (February 22 - March 24, 2017)



The course on **The Hands of the Cause of God: Paths of Service** will focus on services they rendered with the aim of giving learners the courage, confidence, and strength to help them accomplish their personal goals of service to the Baha'i Faith and to help win the goals of the Five Year Plan ending in 2021. We will study passages from the Baha'i writings, extracts from Ruhi materials, and stories about the struggles of the Hands of

the Cause and their successes. We will supplement our study with photographs of the Hands and with audio and video recordings. Optional live call-in video conferences will provide opportunities for discussing the materials.

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

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

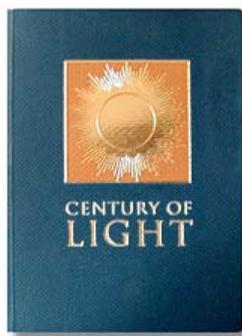
Century of Light

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 relationship between them. 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."

[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: Seven weeks (March 7 - May 8, 2017)

"The Artistry of the Bab: Literary Dimensions of the Bab's Revelation"

Check ABS website for registration details

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Mar. 12, 2017
Houshmand Badee

"Is There a Baha'i Economic System?"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / April 2, 2017
Todd Lawson

"The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / May 14, 2017
Jena Khodadad

"The Hand of the Cause of God Zikrullah Khadem and the Ministry of the Custodians"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / June 11, 2017
Michael Penn

"A Philosophy of Mind Grounded in Relationships: A Baha'i-Inspired Perspective"

Conferences and Celebrations on UN World Interfaith Harmony Week; Our Place in the Natural World; Harnessing Diversity in the Business World; and the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah

[World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) / Feb. 1-7, 2017

[Artists & Scholars Symposium](#) / Feb. 17-19, 2017

Theme: "Our Place in the Natural World"

Call for papers: deadline Jan. 18, 2017

Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy, AZ, USA

[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#) / May 4-7, 2017

ebbf's 27th International Learning Event

"Understanding and Harnessing Diversity"

Call for papers: deadline January 15, 2017

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

[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

[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,



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.

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

Find out more about the Badi' calendar that is reshaping our reality

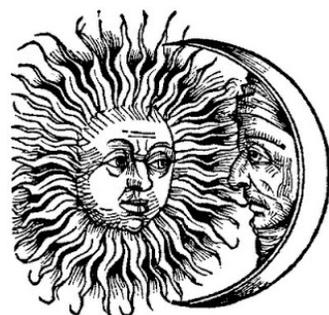
[The Badi' \(Baha'i\) Calendar: Reshaping Our Material, Social, and Spiritual Reality](#)

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

Lead Faculty: [Nicola Daniels](#)

Faculty: [Mark Lutness](#)

Duration of course: One month (March 10 - April 6, 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.

[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 the series on the arts

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

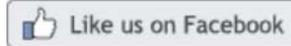
2017

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Social Media

Wilmette Institute Facebook and Twitter Discounts

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 Links

[Wilmette Institute Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)
[Wilmette Institute: YouTube Channel](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Web Talks](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)

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

April 1 - May 18, 2017

[Native American Religion and Spirituality](#)

April 10 - May 28, 2017

[Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

April 15 - June 2, 2017

[Climate Change](#)

April 22 - June 7, 2017

[Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith](#)

May 1 - June 1, 2017

[The Mashriqu'l-Adkar: The First Hundred Years](#)

May 10 - June 27, 2017

[Gems of Mysteries and Other Early Tablets](#)

May 15 - July 2, 2017

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 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.

[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.

[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 a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation: Strengthening Your Marriage

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

[Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)**May 22 - July 9, 2017**[Baha'i History, 1863-2017](#)**May 25 - July 13, 2017**[Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States](#)**June - December 2017
Course Schedule**

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for June through December 2017. The schedule is subject to change. The listing is still partial.

June 2 - July 7, 2017

NEW COURSE: Home of Love: Marriage, Family, and Community

June 7 - Aug. 1, 2017

Baha'i Spirituality

June 20 - August 8, 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 15 - September 7, 2017

Dynamic Consultation

July 21 - September 15, 2017

NEW COURSE: Are We Ready for Marriage?

August 1 - September 17, 2017

The Kitab-i-Iqan

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 2, 2017

Introduction to the Qur'an

September 22 - November 9, 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

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#), [Kelly Monjazebe](#), [Riaz Mostaghim](#)**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (March 24 - June 2, 2017)

The Universal House of Justice has written about the time in their lives when "young women and men become acutely conscious" of Baha'u'llah's exhortations that they "'enter into wedlock' that they may 'bring forth one who will make mention'" of Him (December 29, 2015, par. 39). In **Creating a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation:**

Strengthening Your Marriage, we invite couples in the early years of marriage (others are welcome too) to deepen 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 well-being and salvation, establish roles and responsibilities as spouses, prepare to be parents/step-parents, and balance home life and service opportunities.

[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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October 15 - December 2, 2017

The World Order of Baha'u'llah:
Selected Letters

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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

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/>

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