



March 2016 eNewsletter

Your Monthly Source for Upcoming Courses, Webinars, News, Web Talks, Actions Learners Are Taking, and Dates for Upcoming Talks and Conferences



'ABDU'L-BAHA: ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS TABLETS OF THE DIVINE PLAN

'Abdu'l-Baha: Marking the One Hundredth Anniversary of His Tablets of the Divine Plan (1916/17-2016/17)

Here is a mini-deepening on 'Abdu'l-Baha's Tablets of the Divine Plan: their emphasis on teaching; the circumstances of their revelation during World War I; why they were sent on postcards; those to whom they were mailed; the response of the American Baha'i community (which then included the United States and Canada); and the Universal House of Justice's urgent wish for all Baha'is on this one hundredth anniversary of the revelation of the charter for teaching. [READ>>](#)



Wilmette Institute News

"Five Revolutionary Teachings on Gender Equality in the Bahá'í Faith": Dr. Vasu Mohan Gives the Third 2016 Web Talk on March 19

You can sign up now for Vasu Mohan's Web Talk on March 29 on the topic of "Five Revolutionary Teachings on Gender Equality in the Bahá'í Faith," which he describes as absolutely fascinating and even life changing." [READ>>](#)



Wilmette Institute Further Aligns Its Courses to Support the Universal House of Justice's Plan

Drawing from the new Five Year Plan (2016-21), the Wilmette Institute staff has revised its guidelines to better support goals for the development of the Bahá'í Faith. Focusing on personal transformation, community building, and sharing, the guidelines encourage each learner to set goals at the outset of courses to guide their learning throughout the course and to ensure that they share what they have learned after the course ends. [READ>>](#)

"Consultation: A Revolutionary Model of Democratic Governance," a Web Talk by Dr.

March - May 2016 Courses

A popular course that provides tools for adding to your efforts to mitigate climate change

[Climate Change](#)

One in a series of courses on Baha'i teachings on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Christine Muller](#)

Faculty: [Gary Colliver](#), [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#), [Carole Flood](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (March 1 - April 16, 2016)



In the **Climate Change** course we will explore the basic science of climate change and provide an understanding of how climate disruption impacts us today and will continue to affect us in the future. We will explore ethical questions related to climate change and address them in the context of the spiritual teachings of the world's religions, especially

those of the Baha'i Faith. Some readings will help us make enlightened decisions for our personal and community lives that are consistent with our spiritual and ethical values. Finally, we will learn to participate in public discourse by being empowered to present, from a Baha'i and interfaith perspective, spiritual responses to the climate crisis. For those interested in a more thorough study of climate change and its spiritual dimensions or who are interested in specific aspects of it, the course offers numerous optional resources. This course does not provide a forum for debate about whether climate change is real because there is overwhelming scientific evidence of human-caused global warming.

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

NEW COURSE

A look at how can health care professionals apply their knowledge to bringing about social change

[Health Care and Social Action](#)

One in a series of courses on Baha'i teachings on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Babak Etemad](#)

Faculty: [Stephen Karnik](#), [John Safapour](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 7, 2016 - April 24, 2016)



Health Care and Social Action, presented by Health

Brian Aull, Offers Insights into Consultation and Ideas for Public Discourse

Situating consultation in the context of needing more Baha'is who are able to contribute to the prevalent discourses of society--especially ones who can talk about religion as a fundamental organizing principle for governmental bodies, Dr. Brian Aull brings fresh insights to the topic. [READ>>](#)



Update Your Daily Planner with Upcoming 2016 Wilmette Institute Web Talks

It is time to update your daily planner with dates and times for upcoming Web Talks and also to sign up for them. They are scheduled in March, May, June, October, and November. The topics include gender equality, the Manifestation, consultation, Baha'i law, and the Hands of the Cause of God. To sign up for the Web Talks, [READ>>](#)

Use Web Talks for Firesides and Deepenings

Are you looking for a topic (and a speaker) for a fireside or deepening? Have you been looking for something for your own personal deepening? Why not choose a Wilmette Institute Web Talk and study the topic? The Web Talks are on the Institute's YouTube channel and are available for watching at any time. For a list and links [READ>>](#)

Learners in Action

"I Can't Believe I Waited This Long" to Take a Wilmette Institute Course!

An Alaskan Baha'i who recently signed up for her first Wilmette Institute course (**The Secret of Divine Civilization**) takes time out to recommend such courses to anyone and everyone, especially those who are isolated geographically and those who can't easily get to conferences and other training sessions. [READ>>](#)

One Common Faith Brings New Understanding of Oneness of Humankind, Pitfalls of Modernity and Anachronistic Thinking, and Nuances of Baha'u'llah's Revelation



A learner from Vermont (USA) solves for herself the mystery of how the Enlightenment led to Auschwitz and why it is important to be able to distinguish between religions' eternal and transitory features for meaningful conversations. [READ>>](#)

A Brave Learner Admits and Corrects Misconceptions about Evolution

A Canadian Baha'i owns up his rigid thinking, finds that he must change his views about evolution, and ends up contemplating writing a paper on ethics, science, and religion. [READ>>](#)

Learner Inspired to Become a Better Example by 'Abdu'l-Baha's Example and Methods in His Trip to North America

An isolated believer from New York nearing four decades as a Baha'i says that she feels as if she has just begun her "spiritual journey," to which Wilmette Institute courses are "integral." Her ninth course, **'Abdu'l-Baha's Visit to North America**, has deepened her understanding of how to teach and



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](#)

Become acquainted with the physical changes in the Baha'i calendar, and internalize their spiritual implications

The Badi` (Baha'i) Calendar: Reshaping Our Material, Social, and Spiritual Reality

Another course in the series on Baha'i teachings on community and administration

Lead Faculty: [Nicola Daniels](#)
Faculty: [Mark Lutness](#)

Duration of course: One month (March 10 - April 10, 2016)



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, 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 more about how you can incorporate the arts into your Baha'i activities

The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

Another in a series of courses on Baha'i teachings on the arts

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)
Faculty: [Peggy Caton](#), [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#), [Marjan Nirou Saniee](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 15 - May 3, 2016)



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

be an example to those she meets. [READ>>](#)

Century of Light Gives Learner New Historical Insights and Determination to Use Them in Ruhi Courses

A Florida faculty member and learner finds historical insights in the **Century of Light** course and new determination to teach additional Ruhi books, using historical take-aways from the course. [READ>>](#)

Learner in First Climate Change Course in 2013 Gives Talk on the Topic to Gainesville, Florida, Interfaith Group



John Herbert, one of the five Gainesville, Florida, Baha'is who took the first Climate Change course in February 2013 and who helped form the Gainesville Baha'i Climate Group the same year, gave

a talk on "Spiritual Dimensions of Climate Change: One Baha'i's Perspective" at a World Religion Day 2016 event sponsored by the Climate Group. [READ>>](#)

News

Bahai.org Launches in Six Additional Languages

The core sections ("What Baha'is Believe" and "What Baha'is Do") of the official website of the worldwide Baha'i community are now available in six additional languages: [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Persian](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#). The sections in [English](#) were uploaded a year ago. Within the next three months, according to the Universal House of Justice, the sections will also be available in Hindi and Portuguese, completing its goal of making the information available in nine major international languages "covering a significant portion of the world's population."

A New Issue of the Arts Journal *E*lix*ir*

The second issue of *E*lix*ir* has just been released! It contains poetry by 3 poets, 2 works of short fiction, 1 memoir, 1 essay, an editorial, a collection of paintings, a collection of photographs, and 2 retrospectives about important books. You can read it [here](#).

Lecture on Recent Developments in the Baha'i Calendar

Here is a lecture by Dr. Eric Kingston on "Recent Developments in the Baha'i calendar" to help those of us still grappling with the changes instituted by the Universal House of Justice in 2014. Given in January 2016 at the Ezri Center for Iran and the Persian Gulf Studies at the University of Haifa, the presentation covers calendars in general, the recent developments, relevant astronomy, and religious and spiritual significances. You may want to print out the twenty-four slides to watch along with the audio of the talk. [Click here](#) for abstract, calendar slides, photographs, and audio recording.

Call for Proposals for Breakout Sessions at Association for Baha'i Studies 40th Annual Meeting in Montreal

With an April 15 deadline, the Association for Baha'i Studies is calling for proposals for breakout sessions focusing on any subject of Baha'i



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, 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](#)

Explore the material, spiritual, and ethical dimensions of economics and how they can advance the prosperity of humankind

Economics and the Baha'i Faith

Yet another in a series of courses on Baha'i teachings on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Mary Fish](#)

Faculty: [Hooshmand Badee](#), [James West](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 22 - June 2, 2016)



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](#)

Learn to understand the ideas and feelings of religion

Understanding Religion: Conceptual and Experiential Aspects

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

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#), [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (April 1 - May 19, 2016)



Understanding Religion: Conceptual and Experiential Aspects attempts to distill some of the knowledge about religion that has accumulated through the study of religion during the past two hundred years. We will look at the definitions of religion that have been offered; probe the various attempts to describe the religious experience; examine the pathway to salvation or liberation that different religious groups have offered; seek to gain some understanding of such concepts as faith, belief, and the phenomenon of conversion as well as subjects such as suffering, sacrifice, and salvation; strive to gain an

scholarship. For a statement about the 40th annual conference and more information and details on proposals, [click here](#).

The Association for Baha'i Studies Call for Award Nominations

The ABS 2016 call for nominations for its Awards for Distinguished Scholarship is now open, with a March 15 deadline. For the Terms of Reference and Call for Nominations (one for the publication of a major study that advances our collective understanding of the Baha'i teachings and one for the work of a graduate student who has recently completed a graduate thesis), [click here](#).

The Journal of Baha'i Studies, Volume 25, Number 3, Now Available

The latest issue of *The Journal of Baha'i Studies* (Fall 2015) is now available. [Click here](#) to read Dr. John S. Hatcher's introductory essay on the quest for the virtuous society, the theme running through the five articles, two poems, and three book reviews.



2015 Parliament of World Religions Releases Keynote Speaker Playlist

During the UN's [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) (February 1-7), the 2015 Parliament of the World's Religions released its [keynote speaker playlists](#), urging everyone to share the almost one-hundred highlights from the Parliament with friends and neighbors. You will also want to sample excerpts from Parliament talks (with beautiful photographs and music) on its [home page](#).

Louise R. Waite Honored with Grave Marker 77 Years after Her Passing

Thanks to the work of two researchers, Louise R. Waite, named Shahnaz Khanum by 'Abdu'l-Baha, now has a marker on her grave in Glendale, California, USA. [READ>>](#)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Access Articles from Past Issues of *The Journal for Baha'i Studies*

Articles from past issues of *The Journal for Baha'i Studies* are now available for reading and downloading. Visit the web page of the Association for Baha'i Studies, click on "Publications," then "Journal," and then "Past Issues." Or [click here](#).

Web Talks/Webinars on Gender Equality, the Psychotic in Public Life, Education and Social Problems, the Nature of the Manifestations, Creative Consultation, and Baha'i Law

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Mar. 13
Vasu Mohan

"Five Revolutionary Teachings on Gender Equality in the Bahá'í Faith"

[The Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Apr. 5
Professor James M. Glass, Department of



overview of the metaphysical explanations of reality offered in diverse religions; and examine the promise of a future savior that is common to many religions. Finally, we will explore the topics of archetype, myth, and the sacred that lie behind much of religious and nonreligious thinking. . . .

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

NEW COURSE: A combo course on marriage starting with a weekend at Green Acre and continuing online with the Wilmette Institute

Creating a Coherent Marriage, Family, and Community Life

A new course in the series on individual, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#)

Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#)

Online Support Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Duration of course: Five weeks (April 1 - 3, at Green Acre; April 4 - April 30, 2016, online)



In *Creating a Coherent Marriage, Family, and Community Life* we will work on harmonizing key facets of life, such as marriage, family, work, service, and individual growth, to empower couples and families to contribute to flourishing communities. We will seek ways to expand our capacity to contribute joyfully to the well-being of our neighborhoods and society. This special collaborative program between Green Acre Baha'i School and the Wilmette Institute begins with a weekend for couples at Green Acre on April 1-3. (The Green Acre Baha'i School will provide a weekend children's program.) Following the weekend study at Green Acre, we will continue with the same facilitators (plus additional faculty) in online learning through the Wilmette Institute from April 4-30. This format will help us apply the learning and conversations to daily life. All registrations for the course will go through Green Acre's system.

[Course Description](#) [Registration](#)

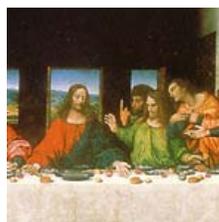
Learn how to share the Baha'i perspective with Christians effectively and respectfully

Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

A course in a series on an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (April 7 - May 25, 2016)



In *Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue* we will explore major themes that form part of Christian belief and compare them with the Baha'i Faith: conceptions of God and the trinity; Christian rites, the Eucharist, and baptism; the kingdom of God; faith in miracles; the Crucifixion; and the Resurrection. We will begin with an introduction to the Bible and its organization and will also cover politics and religion. Using Baha'i, Islamic, and academic perspectives, we will examine the themes in the Gospels' original context and then explore them in their modern forms. We will be studying Christianity for the purposes of deepening and dialogue--that is, for understanding the basics of Christianity as a divinely revealed religion and for learning how to share the Baha'i perspective with a

Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park

"The Psychotic in Public Life: Human Nature and the Political Justification of Brutality"

[The Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Apr. 7

Dr. Daniel Tröhler, University of Luxembourg

"Why We Believe that Education Solves All Our Social Problems"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / May 15

Stephen Phelps

"I Am the Mystic Fane: The Nature of the Manifestation in the Baha'i Writings"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / June 5

Trip Barthel

"Creative Consultation"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / Oct. 16

Roshan Danesh

"Imagining Baha'i Law"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / Nov. 6

Jena Khodadad

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

Conferences on Peace and World Order, Consultation as a Tool for Learning, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, and Scholarship

[The Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Mar. 21

Many speakers

"Civilizations in Embrace: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Ideas, Peace, and World Order," 9 am to 3 pm

[ebbf Conference / Milan, Italy](#) / May 12-15

"Consultation: Beyond Decision-Making: A Tool for Learning"

['Irfan Colloquia / Santa Cruz, CA](#) / May 26-30

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Bosch Baha'i School, English and Persian

['Irfan Colloquia / Acuto, Italy](#) / Jun. 29-July 4

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Centre for Baha'i Studies, Persian

['Irfan Colloquia / Acuto, Italy](#) / Jul. 5-8

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Centre for Baha'i Studies, English

['Irfan Colloquia / Tambach, Germany](#) / Jul. 21-24

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Tambach Baha'i Center, German

[2016 ABS Conference / Montreal, Quebec](#) / Aug. 11-14

Now open for [registration](#), [printable registration forms](#), and [hotel reservations](#).

['Irfan Colloquia / Davison, Michigan](#) / Oct. 6-9

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Louhelen Baha'i School, English and Persian

variety of Christians in an informed and respectful manner.

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

Study Baha'u'llah's laws destined to last for one thousand years

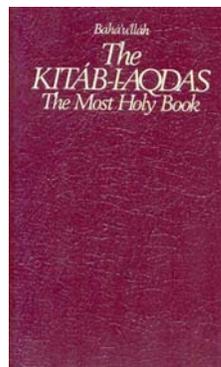
The Kitab-i-Aqdas

One in a series of courses exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (April 22 - June 7, 2016)



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](#)

NEW COURSE

An online workshop on consultation skills for Feast chairs and participants

Feast Consultation

A course in the series on Baha'i teachings on community and administration

Lead Faculty: [Trip Barthel](#)

Faculty: [Shamil Fattakhov](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 1 - June 18, 2016)



Consultation at Baha'i Feasts should offer the opportunity for the full and varied participation of all members of the community, which will lead to greater levels of interest, enhanced social bonding, higher levels of participation, and increased attendance. This **Feast Consultation**

workshop will begin with a study of the underlying principles of consultation and will focus on simple, effective facilitation skills that can be used to make consultation at Baha'i Feasts more engaging and participatory. The workshop will use written material, a webinar, and a video to demonstrate and discuss the skills of consultation for both the chair and the community in six key areas: (1) setting guidelines that promote full participation and address multiple learning styles; (2) creating an efficient, flexible agenda; (3) asking better questions to stimulate thinking; (4) generating ideas in silent meditation; (5) spectrums of interest; and (6) reflection to improve consultation. Participants will end the course with an understanding of the underlying principles of consultation and the ability to use a

[Dedication, Mashriqu'i-Adhkar of Chile](#) / Oct. 13-16

Santiago, Chile

[American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 19-22

San Antonio, Texas, 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.

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Wilmette Institute Links

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

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](#)
['Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)
[Louis G. Gregory Museum](#)
[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)
[U.S. National Baha'i Library](#)
[Unity Museum](#)

Mark Your Calendar

June 1 - July 19, 2016

[Baha'u'llah's Revelation:
A Systematic Survey](#)

June 7 - July 25, 2016

[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

June 15 - August 9, 2016

[Dynamic Consultation](#)

June 22 - August 9, 2016

[The World Order of Baha'u'llah:
Selected Letters](#)

July 1 - August 17, 2016

[Exploring the Hebrew Bible
\(Christian Old Testament\)](#)

broader set of facilitation tools, thus promoting a more vibrant Feast.

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

NEW COURSE

An opportunity for an in-depth study of the new **Five Year Plan (2016-21)**

The New Five Year Plan (2016-21): Completing the First Century of the Formative Age

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

Lead Faculty: To be announced

Faculty: To be announced

Duration of course: One month (May 10 - June 10, 2016)



The New Five Year Plan (2016-21): Completing the First Century of the Formative Age is designed to prepare you for participating in the plan that will bring to a close the first hundred years of the Formative Age of the Baha'i Faith. We will undertake a slow, careful reading and discussion of the December 29, 2015, message to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counselors; the January 2, 2016, message to the Baha'is of the World; and the Ridvan 2016 message, all from the Universal House of Justice. About the new plan, the Universal House of Justice has written: "it is a spiritual enterprise, and its true character should never be obscured. . . . All that the followers of Baha'u'llah have learned in the last twenty years must culminate in the accomplishments of the next five." If the course fills, it will be offered again.

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

Learn how to participate in interfaith dialogue in a learning mode to enhance public discourse about the role of religion in society

Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

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

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 15 - July 2, 2016)



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 for Bahá'is to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue is growing. In **Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue** we will explore how Bahá'is can participate in dialogue with people of all faiths and none, respectfully and in "learning mode"--avoiding what might be called "Bahá'í triumphalism"--such that "Souls then advance their understanding together, humbly sharing the insights each possesses at a given moment and eagerly seeking to learn from fellow wayfarers on the path of service." Inspired by Bahá'u'lláh's call to "Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship," we will draw on Bahá'í 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 during the new Five Year Plan. We will focus on sharing ideas, insights, and perspectives on interfaith relations as we broaden our understandings and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

July 15 - September 6, 2016

[The Destiny of America](#)

August - December 2016 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for August through December 2016. The schedule is subject to change.

August 1 - September 17, 2016

The Tabernacle of Unity

August 20 - October 7, 2016

Building a World Federation:
The Key to Resolving our Global Crises

August 25 - October 12, 2016

The Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Baha

September 1 - October 19, 2016

Practicing the Arts

September 2 - October 4, 2016

Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple

September 7 - October 25, 2016

Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers

September 10 - October 28, 2016

Sustainable Development and
the Prosperity of humankind

September 15 - November 2, 2016

The Advent of Divine Justice

September 22 - December 22, 2016

How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archive

October 7 - November 24, 2016

Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue

October 10 - November 27, 2016

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

October 15 - December 2, 2016

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue

October 25 - December 12, 2016

Charters of the Faith

November 1 - December 19, 2016

Understanding Religion:
Social and Historical Aspects

November 7 - December 25, 2016

The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy

NEW COURSE

November 10 - December 28, 2016

The Promise of World Peace

November 15 - January 3, 2017

The Equality of Women and Men

NEW WEBINAR

November 22 - January 17, 2017

The Epistle of Kings: A Comprehensive Study of Suriy-i-Muluk, Baha'u'llah's First Proclamatory Tablet To the Kings of the Nineteenth Century (WEBINAR)

December 1, 2016 - January 17, 2017

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

Learn more about the writings of the Bab to prepare for the 100th anniversary of His birth in 2019

The Writings of the Bab

A course exploring the writings of the Bab

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Steven Phelps](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 22 - July 9, 2016)



The Writings of the Bab is an introduction to the principal writings of the Bab. Our study will be both historical and thematic: We will study the Bab's writings in the order in which He revealed them (between 1844 and 1850), and we will also focus on selected themes--the station of the Bab, His major teachings, His announcement about Baha'u'llah (His prophetic successor Whom He referred to as "He Whom God will make manifest"), and the role the themes played in preparing for the revelation of Baha'u'llah. Among the works we will study are the Commentary on the Surih of Joseph (Qayyumu'l-Asma'); tablets to secular and religious leaders; The Seven Proofs (Dala'il-i-Sab`ih); the Persian Bayan (Bayan-i-Farsi); the Arabic Bayan (al-Bayan al-`Arabi); the Book of Names (Kitabu'l-Asma'); and the Book of Five Grades (Kitab-i-Panj-Sha'n). There will be an opportunity to read the works of a number of scholars who have studied the writings of the Bab.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn how to build a positive relationship that might lead to a positive, service-oriented marriage

Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

A course in the series on individual, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#), [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#), [Raymond Switzer](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 27 - July 14, 2016)



You may be uncertain about being in a relationship and also be thinking, "Why get married?" Come explore, and learn new perspectives and ways of preparing for positive experiences. It 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. Your learning will position you to make significant decisions about 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](#)

ABOUT US

Writing Biographies and Histories

December 20, 2016 - February 6, 2017

Introduction to Shi'i Islam

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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