



## November 2015 eNewsletter



### Contributions to Public Discourse

**"Summoning Our Common Will": Baha'i Contribution to the UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Related Goals**  
*Summoning Our Common Will* is the new Baha'i contribution to the UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and associated Sustainable Development Goals crafted by over eight million people from 193 countries, "the largest consultation ever conducted by the UN." The new statement places Baha'i study circles, devotionals, and classes for children, junior youth, youth, and adults in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, showing how existing programs can easily contribute to the Goals. [READ>>](#)

### Baha'is Participate in a Dynamic and Forward-Looking Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City

A fascinating overview of the extent of Baha'i participation in the fifth Parliament of the World's Religions held recently in Salt Lake City, together with links to information and videos from the Parliament. [READ>>](#)



### The Parliament of the World's Religions Calls for Social Action: Indigenous and Other Voices Talk about the Impact of Climate Change

Indigenous and other voices from around the world put climate change into perspective as they discuss how actions taken by industrialized countries impact their food, fresh water, and homelands. [READ>>](#)

### News

#### Breathtaking Design Proposed for Baha'i House of Worship in Papua New Guinea

The bird of paradise provides the inspiration for

## November 2015 - January 2016 Courses

Revisit how 'Abdu'l-Baha taught and how He inspired Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís

### ['Abdu'l-Baha's Visit to North America: How It Teaches and Inspires Us](#)

One in a series of courses exploring the ministry, writings, and talks of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)  
 Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 1 - December 19, 2015)



In **'Abdu'l-Baha's Visit to North America: How It Teaches and Inspires Us** will explore 'Abdu'l-Baha's epochal 239-day journey across the North American continent in 1912. In the course we will look at the journey both chronologically and thematically, considering each of the places the Master visited and His various accomplishments: proclaiming the Baha'i teachings to the public; demonstrating the oneness of humanity through His racially integrated meetings; encouraging the marriage of Louis Gregory, an African American, and Louisa Mathew, an English woman; affirming gender equality and the advancement of women; showing concern for the poor through visits to six social service agencies and settlement houses; comforting the infirm in visits to Baha'is and friends of Baha'is unable to come to Him; deepening Baha'is in the fundamental verities of the Faith and urging them to teach it widely; patiently explaining the Covenant and warning about Covenant-breakers; reforming Baha'i governing bodies; reinvigorating Baha'i communities; lovingly mentoring young Baha'is; and pouring out His love to children. An initial unit will discuss requests from American Baha'is that prompted 'Abdu'l-Baha to visit North America. 'Abdu'l-Baha's journey in the

the design proposed for the Baha'i House of Worship in Papua New Guinea, one of two national temples called for by the Universal House of Justice at Ridvan 2012. [WATCH>>](#)

**Join the November 8 Web Talk and Launch of *e\*lix\*ir*, a New Journal of the Arts**

Calling all those interested in the arts, whether as practitioners or admirers: On Sunday, November 8, a new journal of the arts, *e\*lix\*ir*, will be launched with a free Web Talk. Editor Sandra Lynn Hutchison will introduce the journal, and authors showcased in it will read from their works. [READ>>](#)

**Journal of Bahá'í Studies Publishes Fall 2015 Issue**

The theme of the quest for the virtuous society knits together the articles, poems, and reviews in the Fall issue of the *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. Read about the contributions of the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity and ebbf (ethical business for a better future), a Baha'i oncologist's ethical dilemma in discussing death with terminal patients, and how the seemingly unstructured Kitab-i-Aqdas is, in fact, structured. [READ>>](#)



**Association for Baha'i Studies Seeks Editor for Wilfrid Laurier University Press Baha'i Studies Book Series**

A job opening: Check out the nature of the Wilfrid Laurier University Press Baha'i Studies Book series and the responsibilities of the editor of the series. [READ>>](#)

**Local Spiritual Assembly Supports Individual Deepening with Scholarships to Wilmette Institute Courses**

An idea worth considering: The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Champaign, Illinois, consulted on a letter from the Regional Baha'i Council for the Great Lakes States and decided to support efforts of individuals to serve by offering scholarships to Wilmette Institute courses, with the caveat that the individuals bring their learnings back to the community. [READ>>](#)

**View Free Plenary Session Videos from the 2015 Association for Baha'i Studies Conference**

The following videos of plenary sessions at the recent 2015 ABS conference are available for viewing at <http://bahai-studies.ca/proceedings-and-recordings/>: Nazila Ghanea, on "Striving for Human Rights in an Age of Religious Extremism" (the Hasan M. Balyuzi Lecture; "The Role of Religion in Society" panel; and "Nature and Dynamics of Oppression, Empowerment, and Battle against Oppression" panel. As technical problems on the ABS website are resolved, more plenary videos will come online.

**2015 Association for Baha'i Studies Conference CDs of Plenary Sessions Talks Now Available for Sale**

Audio CDs (MP3 format) of all the plenary sessions at the 2015 ABS Annual Conference (Advancing the Life of the Mind) are now available

United States and Canada teaches us many things, provides many stories we can tell that will attract others to Him and to the Baha'i Faith, and prepares us for ongoing opportunities for public discourse. The course will also provide ideas for observing the two November holy days associated with 'Abdu'l-Baha.

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

**Understanding the spiritual implications of the changes in the Baha'i calendar**

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

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

Lead Faculty: [William Collins](#)

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

**Duration of course:** Five weeks (November 5 - December 9, 2015)



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](#)

**Deepen on the New Testament and explore ways to dialogue with a variety of Christians**

**Exploring the New Testament**

One of many courses providing an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 10 - December 29, 2015)



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 several different writers between 50 and 130 C.E., 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,

for preorder sale from the Association for Baha'i Studies at <http://bahai-studies.ca/product-category/cds-dvds/page/4/>.

### Cameroon Association for Baha'i Studies Registered as NGO

The Cameroon Association for Baha'i Studies, an agency of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cameroon until 2007, was registered on July 13, 2015, with the government of Cameroon as a nongovernmental organization, enabling it to receive funding from non-Baha'i sources. [READ>>](#)

### Report on ebbf Conference: Creating Meaningful and Purposeful Organizations Ready for the 21st Century

An innovative report on an innovative conference on making organizations ready for the challenges of the twenty-first century. Plus an invitation to join the May 2016 conference in Milan. [READ>>](#)

## Celebrating Twenty Years

### Eleventh Web Talk by Dr. Stephen R. Friberg on November 15: "Science and Religion: Reconciliation, Cooperation, and Harmonious Development"

In his November 15 Web Talk on "Science and Religion: Reconciliation, Cooperation, and Harmonious Development," Dr. Stephen R. Friberg will discuss how science and religion, when combined with the "fundamental oneness of religion," will produce future-looking thinking on both topics. [READ>>](#)



### How Do We Explain World Government to Friends? Read What Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing Has to Say

See how international lawyer Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing uses the Baha'i writings and historical examples to point the way to world government and provide answers to skeptics. [READ>>](#)

### Web Talks on "Science and Religion" and "The Nature of the Human Mind": Time to Update Your Calendar

It is time to plan ahead for the Wilmette Institute's final two Web Talks honoring its Twentieth Anniversary: November 15 (Dr. Steve Friberg on "Science and Religion: Reconciliation, Cooperation, and Harmonious Development"); and December 6 (Dr. Michael Penn on "The Nature of the Human Mind"). [Click here](#) for details on the talks (as well as links to



previous talks-with summaries of the talks and links to YouTube).

### Six-Word Essays: Capturing the Spirit of the Wilmette Institute

See how two learners condense their powerful and stimulating experiences in Wilmette Institute courses into essays of six words. [READ>>](#)

## Learners in Action

### You Never Know What Effects Learnings from a Wilmette Institute Course Will Have

The Wilmette Institute's course on **Climate Change**



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](#)

Find out how the twentieth century prepares us for sharing the "challenging implications" of Baha'u'llah's revelation

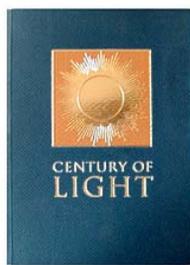
## Century of Light

An historical study prepared under the supervision of the Universal House of Justice

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Robert Wilson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 15, 2015 - January 2, 2016)



'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](#)

Finding unity and harmony in the principles of science and religion

## Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith

One in a series of courses on Baha'i theology and philosophy

Lead Faculty: [Stephen Friberg](#)

Faculty: [Roger Neyman](#), [Lisa Ortuno](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 20, 2015 - January 7, 2016)



The world has seen a remarkable growth of science and an unprecedented decline in the influence of religion since the birth of Baha'u'llah two hundred years ago. Many have come to believe that science and religion are deeply at odds with each other, leading to bitter and sometime tragic divisiveness. In **Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith**, we will look at Baha'u'llah's teachings affirming that science and religion are both essential to human welfare and that they must be in harmony with each other. After

examining an historical overview of the relationship between science and religion, we will explore the unique Baha'i approach to their affinity. Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith, for example, has declared that the Faith is "scientific in its method," suggesting that *scientific* implies a broader context than the natural sciences. We will study the Baha'i writings as they relate to physics, cosmology, biology, and evolution and then consider some perspectives they inspire with regard to the environment and new Atheism. Finally, we explore the call by the Universal House of Justice for the systematic development of strong and growing communities through a "culture of learning" and will consider effective ways to apply the principles of science and religion to unity and harmony.

just keeps on giving. Read how Peter Haug's account of giving talks and a course on the subject prompted a women on the East Coast to take a similar course, an interview for his local newspaper, more requests for talks, and the possibility of writing a book on climate change. [READ>>](#)



### Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: A "Calligraphic" Art Project

To view an art project inspired by three key words in the Zoroastrian religion, [click here](#) to see what Hifa Nassery created in **Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue** and how she explains her work.

## Conferences on American Religions and Ethical Business Practices

[American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Atlanta / Nov. 21-24  
[ebbf Conference](#) / May 12-15, 2016

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

## Webinars/Web Talks on Science and Religion, Governance of Peace, the Human Mind, the Launch of a New Arts Journal, and More

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Nov. 4

Drs. Jooyoung Lee and Joseph B. Richardson, Jr. Symposium on Structural Violence in Philadelphia and Baltimore

[Free Web Talk & Launch of e\\*lix\\*ir, a New Journal of the Arts](#) / Nov. 8

Dr. Sandra Lynn Hutchison and authors

[So. Regional BNASAA Conf.](#) / Nov. 12-15

Exploring challenging personal issues in safe, loving environment.

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Nov. 15

Dr. Stephen Friberg

"Science and Religion: Reconciliation, Cooperation, and Harmonious Development"

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Nov. 16

Dr. John Braithwaite, Fall Lecture

"Globalization and the Governance of Peace"

[ABS Webinar](#) / Nov. 19

Dr. Trip Barthel

"Asking Better Questions"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Dec. 6

Dr. Michael Penn

"The Nature of the Human Mind"

## Holy Days and Badi' Calendar

### Links to Universal House of Justice Letters on the Badi' Calendar and the Twin Holy Birthdays in November

With the first universal observance of the Twin Holy Birthdays of the Bab and Baha'u'llah just

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

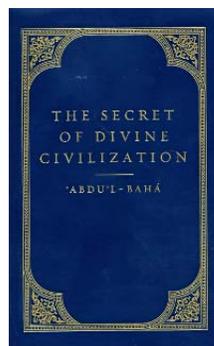
## Study 'Abdu'l-Baha's treatise as an example of public discourse and a blueprint for reorganizing the world

### The Secret of Divine Civilization

Another in a series exploring the ministry, writings, and talks of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (December 1, 2015 - January 18, 2016)



In **The Secret of Divine Civilization** we will study 'Abdu'l-Baha's first extensive description of Baha'i social teachings, reading it slowly over a period of seven weeks. 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 trustworthiness, a theme of particular interest during any election cycle. This course will thus look at the

complementary processes of personal transformation and social development, leading to a reorganization of the world. It 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](#)

## Study the changes needed to be made worldwide to prepare for one common faith

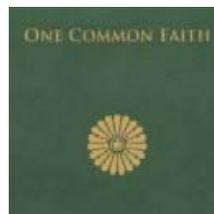
### One Common Faith

One in a series of writings commissioned by the Universal House of Justice

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (December 10, 2015 - January 27, 2016)



**One Common Faith** analyzes the assertion that "the time has come when religious leadership must face honestly and without further evasion the implications of the truth that God is one and that . . . religion is likewise one." In the document commissioned by the Universal House of Justice, we will look at the nature and results of the dominance of materialism in the modern world; the consequences of global integration; and the failure of the world's past religious systems to deal with the crisis of modernity. We

will also discuss what it says about the Baha'i principles that make the Baha'i approach effective: the impact of progressive revelation on understanding religious systems and their efforts to civilize humanity; and the power of unity in reforming civilization and the nature of the forces that oppose it. Finally, we will examine what the document explains about the efforts the Baha'i community must make to become an effective agent of change and lead the world to one common faith. Our study of *One Common Faith* will provide a foundation for teaching, for interfaith dialogue, and for contributing to public discourse.

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

around the corner (November 13 and 14), we are including links to the several letters from the Universal House of Justice on the Badi' calendar and the Twin Birthdays: letter dated [July 6, 2015](#), plus [four tablets \(for Twin Birthdays\)](#); and letter dated [September 8, 2015](#) (suspend work on both days).

### Videos to Help You Prepare for the Twin Holy Birthdays in November

With the entire Baha'i world having already begun the common implementation of the Badi' calendar and now preparing to celebrate the first universal observance of the back-to-back Festivals of the Twin Holy Birthdays of the Bab and Baha'u'llah on November 13 and 14, here, once again, are two links to videos that you may find helpful: (1) "The Badi' Calendar," produced by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom and 15.46 minutes in length, can be found in high definition (2GB) at <https://goo.gl/OFm147> and standard (553MB) at <https://goo.gl/IAio8Q>. (2) "Twin Holy Birthdays: Bringing Two Calendars Together" (an explanation of why the birthdays of the Bab and Baha'u'llah are on consecutive days, 11.44 minutes) can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/wilmetteinstitute>--scroll down to the name of the talk.

## 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

[Wilmette Institute Public Website](#)  
[Wilmette Institute Course Delivery System](#)  
[Wilmette Institute Student Projects](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: YouTube Channel](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Twentieth Anniversary 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](#)

Understand the Baha'i writings better by studying the Qur'an

## Exploring the Qur'an

One in a series providing an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Duration of course: Nine weeks (December 15 - February 15, 2016)



The Qur'an is the divine revelation on which the religion of Islam is based. Shoghi Effendi has emphasized the importance of Baha'is' studying the Qur'an: "They must . . . approach reverently and with a mind purged from preconceived ideas the study of the Qur'an which, apart from the sacred scriptures of the Babi and Baha'i revelations, constitutes the only Book which can be regarded as an absolutely authenticated Repository of the Word of God" (*The Advent of Divine Justice* 49). In a letter written on his behalf, Shoghi Effendi advises "the friends to make a thorough study of the Qur'an, as the knowledge of

this sacred Scripture is absolutely indispensable for every believer who wishes to adequately understand and intelligently read, the writings of Baha'u'llah" (*Directives of the Guardian* 63). In **Exploring the Qur'an**, we will examine Baha'i references to the Qur'an and study a summary of the Qur'an and the tenets of Islam. Then we will study how the Qur'an describes itself and delve into several topics in the Qur'an: the nature of God; divine unity; the Prophets of God; and the Latter Day. Finally, we will discuss some Qur'anic verses as they relate to the Baha'i Faith.

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

A new look at courtship and preparation for marriage

## Are We Ready for Marriage? Deepening Our Courtship

One in a series on courtship, marriage, and family

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 1 - February 18, 2016)



"Careful preparation for marriage is an essential first step in the preservation of Baha'i marriage" (World Centre Research Department, Introduction, "Preserving Baha'i Marriages" No. 3). As you and your intended spouse go through courtship and begin to discuss marriage, you can benefit from delving deeply into many topics, increasing your knowledge, insights, and skills as you prepare for a

unified marriage. Your thoroughness in preparing for marriage will help you determine your compatibility, help you decide whether you have a shared vision of your future life together, establish good relationships with your parents, and make sure you include service to each other and to others a part of your plans. In **Are We Ready for Marriage?** we will study the Baha'i teachings on courtship and marriage, consider the input of marriage experts, and discuss your experiences and learning. We will cover such topics as marriage as a divine institution and the foundation for world unity; uniting a couples' families and securing parental consent to marriage; creating a harmonious spiritually based marriage that includes children; intercultural marriages in the context of a global human family; and practicing gender equality in a marriage. The course is intended primarily for single individuals and couples involved in a courtship and preparing for marriage, but others are welcome.

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

[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)  
[U.S. National Baha'i Library](#)  
[Washington Baha'i History Museum](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

**February 1 - March 7, 2016**  
[Exploring the Book of Isaiah](#)

**February 7 - March 29, 2016**  
[The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi](#)

**February 12 - April 1, 2016**  
[Introduction to Sufism](#)

**February 22 - April 10, 2016**  
[Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States](#)

**March 1 - April 26, 2016**  
[Climate Change](#)

**March 7 - April 24, 2016**  
[Health Care and Social Action](#)

**March 10 - April 27, 2016**  
[Progressive Revelation](#)

**March 15 - May 3, 2016**  
[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)

**March 22 - June 2, 2016**  
[Economics and the Baha'i Faith](#)

## **April - October 2016 Course Schedule**

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

April 1 - May 18, 2016  
 Understanding Religion:  
 Conceptual and Experiential Aspects

April 4 - May 4, 2016  
 Communicating as a Couple

April 7- May 25, 2016  
 Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

April 22 - June 7, 2016  
 The Kitab-i-Aqdas

May 1 - June 17, 2016  
 How to Chair Consultation at Feast

May 10 - June 7, 2016  
 Preparing for the New Five Year Plan

May 15 - July 2, 2016  
 Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

May 22 - July 9, 2016  
 The Writings of the Bab

May 30 - July 22, 2016  
 Building Unity Toward Marriage

June 1 - July 19, 2016  
 Baha'u'llah's Revelation:  
 A Systematic Survey

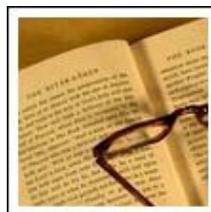
A new title for a course about learning techniques for studying any Baha'i text

## Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings

An approach to studying the Baha'i writings

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 7 - February 24, 2016)



**Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings** is designed to introduce 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](#)

A new course studying the progressive nature of Baha'u'llah's revelation with three video webinars

## From Concealment to Glorious Splendor: The Three Stages of Baha'u'llah's Declaration

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

Lead Faculty: [Shahrokh Monjazeb](#)

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



This course will cover the three declarative and pivotal works of Baha'u'llah during the fourteen year span from 1852 to 1866--namely, the *Rashh-i-'Ama'*, the *Madinatu's-Sabr*, and the *Suratu'l-Muluk*, three works associated with the three stages of His declaration: (1) His reception of revelation in the *Siyah-Chal*, (2) His private declaration in the Garden of Ridvan to a group of close followers, and (3) His public declaration to the kings and rulers of the world. Each work will be covered in a video

webinar, followed by two weeks of study and discussion.

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

A new course exploring American Indian religion and the Baha'i Faith

## American Indian Religion and Spirituality

Another in the series on religion, philosophy, and theology

June 7 - July 25, 2016  
Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

Lead Faculty: [Paula Bidwell](#)  
Faculty: [Kamao Cappel](#), [Richard Hainsworth](#), [Valerie Phillips](#)

June 15 - August 9, 2016  
Dynamic Consultation

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (January 25 - March 10, 2016)

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)

July 15 - September 6, 2016  
The Destiny of America

August 1 - September 17, 2016  
The Tabernacle of Unity

August 15 - October 2, 2016  
Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue

August 25 - October 12, 2016  
The Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Baha

September 1 - October 19, 2016  
Practicing the Arts

September 7 - October 25, 2016  
Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers

September 10 - October 28, 2016  
Climate Change

September 12 - October 14, 2016  
Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple

September 15 - October 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 22 - December 9, 2016  
Charters of the Faith

October 31 - December 2, 2016  
Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage



**In American Indian Religion and Spirituality** we will focus on indigenous spirituality and the universal message of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how the spiritual teachings in Native American religion echo and parallel similar teachings found in the Baha'i writings, how Indian concepts of spirituality and religion are expanded by comparing and contrasting similar teachings in the Baha'i Faith, how culture affects the way in which Indians look at reality, what Baha'i culture may look like in Indian Baha'i communities, and how Native North American Baha'is can connect the Baha'i writings to their sacred traditions and thus share the Message in a more effective manner. Topics will cover a wide range of topics, including how to

understand and communicate without cultural divides, developing an awareness of inherent biases, the historic effects of Christianity on Native populations, how such effects influence interactions today and Native American presentations of the Faith and the uncomfortable subject of colonization and how it affects Native Americans and European Descendant Americans. In our readings, discussions, and consultations, we will focus on allowing and encouraging differing ideas, insights, and perspectives on complex issues to broaden our understandings and tap into everyone's wisdom to enrich the collective experiences and wisdom of all participants.

[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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