



world on September 17 and was laid to rest on the Fort Hall Reservation near

Pocatello, Idaho. Paula is remembered for creating two courses about Native American religions but even more so for "her illumined soul" that brought joy, understanding, and friendship to many, including those who only met her through Wilmette Institute courses and emails. [READ>>](#)

Three Web Talks Complete the 2016 Series--With One Change and One Addition

The final three Web Talks are now set. One speaker's talk had to be moved to 2017, but another speaker, Shahrokh Monjazebe, is now filling the November slot with a Web Talk for the general public and a webinar that begins his course called "A Divine Proclamation Like No Other! Baha'u'llah's Epistle of the Kings." [READ>>](#)

Web Talks for 2017 Are Falling in Place

Almost two-thirds of the Wilmette Institute's Web Talks for 2017 have been scheduled. They include six new presenters (and Michael Penn, from 2015, the quality of the recording of whose talk did not permit its posting on YouTube) plus a variety of topics. Put the Talks on your daytimer now. [READ>>](#)

The Story of Joseph: Illuminating the Relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and Islam: Dr. Todd Lawson's Web Talk



Dr. Todd Lawson, in his Web Talk, set out to show how "The Story of Joseph in the Qur'an has a profoundly spiritual connection with the Baha'i Faith." His exploration of a number of themes (the inerrancy of the Qur'an; the unique relationship between Islam

and the Baha'i Faith; the role of the figure of Joseph in the Baha'i-thought world; Joseph as an example of what it means to be a True Manifestation of God) are sure to give you new insights into Baha'u'llah and His writings. [READ>>](#)

Almost Two Year's Worth of Web Talks at Your Finger Tips for Personal and Community Deepening

You can delve into new topics yourself or enliven firesides and deepening in your community by dipping into almost two year's worth of Wilmette Institute Web Talks on many topics with a variety of presenters. [READ>>](#)

It's Fund-Raising Time, and the Wilmette Institute Needs Your Help

This year the Wilmette Institute's fund-raising goal is \$55,000. We need your help so that the Wilmette Institute can meet its Five Year Plan goals and continue to operate with the blessings of the National Spiritual Assembly but independent of the National Baha'i Fund. Let's outdo last year when goal was \$45,000, which was exceeded by \$1,000. So far, the Wilmette Institute has received \$17,851.55. [Click here](#) for a Contribution Form, instructions for U.S. Baha'is about making online contributions, and a Fact Sheet.

Contributions to Public Discourse

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 10 - November 26, 2016)



In the course on *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, Baha'u'llah's last major work, which is a single letter containing His own anthology of His writings, we will read the book slowly over a period of six weeks, examining major themes of Baha'u'llah's revelation: God as the source of His revelation; Who Baha'u'llah is; why He came; proofs of His station; His general teachings; the sufferings He endured; humanity's responses to His revelation; and accounts of martyrs that illustrate the transforming power of the Baha'i Faith. Revealed for an enemy of the Baha'i Faith, Shaykh Muhammad-Taqi (surnamed "Son of the Wolf"), the book warns him about the consequences of his persecution of the Faith. Containing as it does Baha'u'llah's

quotations from His own revelation, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf* provides an excellent summary of themes He considered important to understanding the Baha'i Faith.

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

Guidance on lines of action that will ensure the success of the current Five Year Plan

The Advent of Divine Justice: Guidance for Winning Five Year Plan Goals

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

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

Duration of course: Eight weeks (October 15 - December 2, 2016) Shoghi



Effendi's soul-stirring letter, *The Advent of Divine Justice*, was written in 1938 during a time of tremendous turmoil in world affairs. As we find ourselves once again in the midst of breathtaking worldwide change, we turn to his brilliant analysis of our strengths and weaknesses, to his unerring guidance, and to his assurances of our "unspeakably glorious destiny." While addressed "To the beloved of God" in the United States and Canada--countries not yet caught up in the vortex of World War II--his sweeping vision of the World Order of Baha'u'llah is thrilling for all Bahá'ís for all time. Shoghi Effendi helps us understand that there is one Divine Plan, "whose Source is God, whose author is Bahá'u'lláh," and "whose outline has been delineated for them by the pen of 'Abdu'l-Baha." Shoghi Effendi himself leads us to further

stages in the unfoldment of the Divine Plan, which continues to be propelled forward under the guidance of the Universal House of Justice. In this course we will learn the spiritual prerequisites for success of the Divine Plan, the teaching requirements, and the "double crusade" each Baha'i must conduct to "prepare . . . for the time when the Hand of Destiny will have directed them to assist in creating and in bringing into operation that World Order. . . ." As the Universal House of Justice wrote in its December 29, 2015, letter: This is an urgent call for action--"the urgency . . . impelled by the world's desperate condition." As we embark on the current Five Year Plan, study of *The Advent of Divine Justice* could not be more imperative.

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

Learn how to build family unity during courtship, consent, engagement, and marriage

The Wilmette Institute Participates in Global Climate Change Week

The faculty of the course on **Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind** outlines plans for how learners from all Wilmette Institute courses, present and past, can contribute to Global Climate Change Week (GCCW, Oct. 10-16). Learn more about GCCW and its purposes, view short videos about climate change, and see how you can participate. [READ>>](#)

Baha'i Studies Group at American Academy of Religion Offers Exciting Program to Thousands at Religious Conference

The new Baha'i Studies group recognized by the American Academy of Religion (AAR) is offering a panel with seven speakers on "The Most Challenging Issue: Religion and Race in the Baha'i Community" on November 20 at the annual conference of the AAR. [READ>>](#)

Danger & Dialogue: American Catholic Public Opinion and Portrayals of Islam

"The Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University has provided a study on Catholic attitudes toward Islam and Muslims that is exemplary in its honesty and transparency," writes Larry Greenfield, Executive Director of the Parliament of the World's Religions. You can [download](#) the 70-page report or the summary of the findings. You will not want to miss this courageous "self-examination, particularly on a topic as contentious as this one."

Learners in Action

Supporting Core Activities with Learnings from Wilmette Courses

Jessica Kerr, a Baha'i from Windsor, Colorado, USA, has taken sixteen Wilmette Institute courses and has this to say: "As I serve at the neighborhood level in somewhat of a small community, I have realized that my learning through the Wilmette Institute serves as kind of a 'life-line' at the front lines of community building. I have no doubt that my contribution to my neighborhood, serving to promote the Five Year Plan through supporting core activities as well as parenting my four children (and supporting community children and junior youth, too) have been greatly enhanced through these courses. Thank you to all those who serve the Wilmette Institute in providing an accessible source for learning that quenches one's innate thirst for knowledge and contributed to the betterment of community. I am grateful."



The Badi' Calendar Showcased in a Stained-Glass Skylight: A Teaching Element with Its Own Website

Our September eNewsletter included an article on the Badi' calendar designed for the skylight in the new home that Frances Pollitt and her husband are building in



Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage

A course in a series relationships, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#), [Fariba Vahdat](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 21 - December 2, 2016)



Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage is centered in the Baha'i belief that marriage is intended to be a unifying experience for a family. It explores the knowledge and skills needed throughout courtship as well as those that help build family unity throughout the process leading up to a marriage. We will cover the purpose and process of parental consent, a requirement for Baha'i marriage; the couple's responsibilities during courtship and before asking parents for consent to marry; parental responsibilities during courtship, consent, and engagement; and building a united family.

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

Refresh your understanding of the charters for developing and expanding the Baha'i Faith

Charters of the Faith: The Tablet of Carmel, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha

One in a series on the revelation of Baha'u'llah and the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Robert Wilson](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (October 25 - December 19, 2016)



In **The Charters of the Faith** we will study three "Charters" of the Baha'i Faith identified by Shoghi Effendi: Baha'u'llah's Tablet of Carmel and 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament and Tablets of the Divine Plan. We will read and discuss the full texts of these three charters, supplementing our reading with stories, photographs, and other materials and seeking to gain a deeper understanding of their significance and their application in our own lives. We will examine the "three distinct processes" that Shoghi Effendi states these three

charters set in motion, "the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Baha'i world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order" (*Messages to the Baha'i World* 84). The course will conclude with a discussion about the Hands of the Cause of God and the role they played between Shoghi Effendi's death in 1957 and the election of the Universal House of Justice in 1963 and with the role that individuals play in protecting and expanding the Faith.

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

Learn more about the study of religion as a discipline and how it relates to societal issues

Understanding Religion: Social and

Massachusetts. Now the spectacular skylight has its own website, www.badistainedglass.com, where you can read even more about how the skylight came into being and what the pieces of the design mean. When a Baha'i friend viewed the website, his comments were "Gorgeous! Stunning! Brilliant. Creative. It has the 'Wow' factor."

The Writings of the Bab: Preparation for Planning a Devotional for the Twin Birthdays

A first-time Wilmette Institute learner found the course on **The Writings of the Bab** an eye-opening experience that led him to appreciate the volume of the Bab's writings and their importance in understanding the Baha'i Faith and that fostered new skills (asking the right questions and listening to others). Now he plans to help his group plan a special devotional for the Twin Birthdays. [READ>>](#)

Health Care and Social Action: How Social Workers Can Contribute to the Five Year Plan

A licensed social worker finds her voice and is grateful to learn how much the Baha'i writings and letters from the Universal House of Justice contribute to her understanding of the spiritual aspects of her chosen field. She hopes to connect with other social workers to walk with her as she writes about prayer and healing. [READ>>](#)

News

Anticipation Rising for Chile Temple Inauguration

Great news for those of us not lucky enough to attend the dedication of the House of Worship in Chile: The Bahá'í World News Service has announced that it will be providing "live video coverage of the public opening ceremony" on its website on October 13, 14:00GMT, "for approximately 90 minutes." Thus "People around the world will be able to watch this historic event, marking the dedication of the final continental Bahá'í Temple." [Click here](#) to find more information, links to articles, and videos.



Progress in Activities around and the Construction of Cambodian House of Worship

As the Cambodian House of Worship rises, youth are finding a framework for service to society, including building capacity for providing moral education for children and youth, building knowledge for bettering the world, avoiding drugs, building unity, developing community, and walking with others on a path of service. Read the Baha'i International Community's press release and view a short video on the recent tree-planting session at the [House of Worship site](#). The House of Worship in Battambang, Cambodia is one of five local houses of worship that the Universal House of Justice called for in 2012.



BIC Calls on President Rouhani to End Systematic Economic Oppression

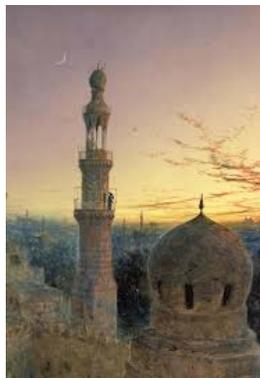
Historical Aspects

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

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 1 - December 19, 2016)



Understanding Religion attempts to distill some of the knowledge about the social and historical aspects of religion that has accumulated through the study of religion during the past two hundred years. We will study the following subjects: comparative religious history; the foundations and evolution of religious ethics; the phenomenon of liberalism and fundamentalism; the differences between official religion and popular religion; religion, power, and government; religion and gender; religion and art; and religion in the modern world. Learners must obtain a copy of Moojan Momen, *Understanding Religion* (second-hand copies of this book are available on the Internet under the title *The Phenomenon of Religion*).

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

What can philosophy teach us about the Baha'i principles?

The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy

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

Lead Faculty: [Ian Kluge](#)

Faculty: [Mikhail Sergeev](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 7 - December 25, 2016)



In **The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy**, we will explore the relationship between the Baha'i teachings and many eternal human questions, such as metaphysics (the system of principles underlying a particular study or subject), religion and spirituality, epistemology (how we know something), ethics, social philosophy, aesthetics and self-expression, and the philosophy of law, education, politics, love, and humanity.

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

NEW COURSE

Revisit the peace statement to learn how to draw on it for contributions to the prevalent discourses around you

The Promise of World Peace

A course in a series on the writings of the Universal House of Justice

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Dan Wheatley](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 10 - December 28, 2016)

In 1985 the Universal House of Justice issued *The Promise of World Peace*, the first in a series of ground-breaking documents that address humankind's situation and needs. Three decades later the message, known to many as "the peace

The Baha'i International Community has called on "Iran's President, Dr. Hassan Rouhani, to end the severe economic oppression imposed on the Baha'is in that country." Read the BIC press release, the letter to Dr. Rouhani (in English or Persian), and a 2015 special report on the economic oppression of Iran's Baha'is and view a "powerful documentary" produced by some Baha'is in Iran (16:40), narrated in Persian with English subtitles. [Click here](#).

Web Talks/Webinars on Forgiveness, Baha'i Law, Baha'u'llah's Suriy-i-Muluk, South Carolina Baha'is, a Baha'i Perspective on Globalization and Current Events, Is There a Baha'i Economic System, and the Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / College Park, Maryland / Oct. 4
Professor C. Fred Alford
"Forgiveness Is Not To Make Us Feel Better"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Oct. 16
Roshan Danesh
"Imagining Baha'i Law"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Nov. 27
Shahrokh Monjazebe
"A Divine Proclamation Like No Other: Baha'u'llah's Epistle of Kings"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Dec. 4
Louis Venters
"No Jim Crow Church: The History of the Baha'i Faith in South Carolina"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Jan. 15, 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"

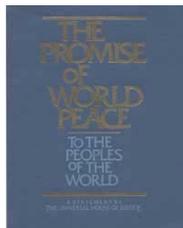
[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Mar. 12, 2017
Houshmand Badee
"Is There a Baha'i Economic System?"

[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"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Oct. 22, 2017
Paul Hanley
"Eleven"



statement," is as cogent and urgent as ever with the world increasingly embroiled in conflict, whether "hot" or "cold," involving disputes over territory, nationalist ambitions, religious inspiration, tribal conflicts increasingly involving terrorist organizations, fundamentalist religious and ideological groups, nationalist groups, and so on. As the Universal House of Justice wrote in 1985: "Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behavior, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict and disorder would be unconscionably irresponsible." Much progress has been made, but the governments of the world and the United Nations have failed to stem "the tide of conflict and disorder." In our study of the statement we will consider what changes have taken place in the world since 1985, for good and for ill, and will familiarize ourselves with the document's themes and arguments so that we can draw on them in our contributions to public discourse and our conversations with those we encounter in our daily lives.

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

Delve deeper into an issue of equality that has a multitude of ramifications for world unity

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

One in a series of courses on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Vasu Mohan](#)

Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 15 - January 2, 2017)



In **The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life** we will aim to acquire a deeper understanding of the Baha'i principle of the equality of women and men and to explore its application in personal transformation, family life, workplace, and Baha'i communities and in engaging with elevated conversations and

public discourses. We will address topics such as the nature of human identity and the acquisition of self-knowledge; equality in the family; transforming economic structures and processes; women's role in building peace, security, and governance; eliminating violence against women; men and boys as partners in achieving equality; and the important role played by the media. We will draw on the Baha'i writings, social science and policy research, and analysis and commentary from a variety of sources. Special emphasis will be placed on role models and champions of equality from Baha'i history, including 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Greatest Holy Leaf, and case studies of successful initiatives and communities working toward gender equality in the private and public spheres. Participation from both male and female learners is strongly encouraged to maximize opportunities for learning.

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

NEW WEBINAR

Prepare for the 200th anniversary of Baha'u'llah's birth with a new webinar course on His first proclamation to the kings of the world

The Epistle of the Kings: A Comprehensive Study of Suriy-

Conferences on Building Capacity in the Work Place; the Tablets of the Divine Plan; Sustainable Lifestyles; Religions; and Our Place in the Natural World

[ebbf Building Capacity Conference](#) / Oct. 6-9
Building Capacity: Developing Volition and Latent Talent in People and Organizations to Create a More Meaningful Workplace and Civilization
Bucharest, Romania

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / Oct. 6-9
Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan
Louhelen Baha'i School, English and Persian
Davison, Michigan, USA

[20th Annual International Environment Forum Conference](#) / Oct. 7-9
Focus on Responsible and Sustainable Lifestyles, Values and Education, and Sustainable Urban Communities
Nur University, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

[Dedication, Mashriq'u'l-Adhkar of Chile](#) / Oct. 13-16
Santiago, Chile

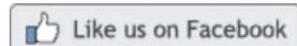
[American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 19-22
San Antonio, Texas, USA

[Artists & Scholars Symposium](#) / Feb. 17-19, 2017
Theme: "Our Place in the Natural World"
Call for papers: deadline Jan. 15, 2017
Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy, AZ, 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](#)

Other Links

[i-Muluk, Baha'u'llah's First Proclamatory Tablet to the Kings of the Nineteenth Century](#)

A course in a series exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Shahrokh Monjazeb](#)
Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 27 - January 15, 2017)



Sultan Abdul-Aziz

The year 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the revelation of Baha'u'llah's seminal proclamatory work, the Suriy-i-Muluk, which set the stage for future summons by Him to all the major political leaders of the nineteenth century. Baha'u'llah wrote this lengthy and monumental epistle during His banishment to the remote Turkish city of Edirne and while He was engulfed in severe attacks from within the Babi community contesting His leadership and undermining His divine mission. In this course we will examine closely relevant topics, such as those addressed in the text of the tablet; the impact of this very challenging summons on the political landscape of Europe and the Middle East; and how its spiritual repercussions are still being felt today in the global political arena. Our study will include four webinars.

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

Make good on your promise to write a history of your community or of a Baha'i special to you

[Writing Biographies and Histories](#)

One of several courses on skills development

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

Duration of course: Eight weeks (December 1 - January 17, 2017)



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

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

Increase your understanding of the "source and background" of the Baha'i Faith

[Introduction to Shi`i Islam](#)

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

[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

January 7 - February 24, 2017

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

NEW COURSE: BRAZIL ONLY, IN PORTUGUESE

January 13 - February 24, 2017

[Criando uma Vida Matrimonial, Familiar e Comunitaria Coerente](#)

NEW COURSE

January 15 - March 5, 2017

[The Baha'i Faith and Agriculture](#)

January 22 - March 4, 2017

[Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings](#)

February 1 - March 7, 2017

[Introduction to the New Testament](#)

NEW COURSE

February 7 - March 28, 2017

[The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story](#)

February 15 - April 4, 2017

[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

March - August 2017 Course Schedule

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

March 1 - April 26, 2017
 Century of Light

March 10 - April 10, 2017
 The Badi` (Baha'i) Calendar: Reshaping our Material, Social and Spiritual Reality

March 15 - May 3, 2017
 The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

March 17 - May 26, 2017
 Creating a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation: Strengthening Your Marriage

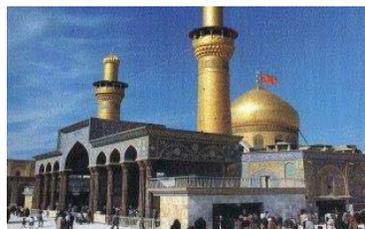
March 22 - June 2, 2017
 Economics and the Baha'i Faith

March 31 - May 12, 2017
 Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Pschaida](#), [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (December 20 - February 6, 2017)



Shoghi Effendi states that the Baha'i Faith started as "a heterodox and seemingly negligible offshoot of the Shaykhi school of the Ithna-'Ashariyyih sect of Shi'ah Islam" (*God Passes By* xii). He also said that Baha'is "must strive to obtain, from sources that are authoritative and unbiased, a sound knowledge of the history and tenets of Islam--the source and background of their Faith" (*The*

Advent of Divine Justice 75: 49). In this course we will focus on Shi'ism, and, especially, on the Ithna-'Ashariyyih (or Twelver) school of Shi'ah Islam. We will also examine the history of this sect and its distinctive teachings. In particular, we will look at the split into Sunni and Shi'ah in Islamic history, the history and doctrine of the Imamate, the Twelfth Imam, and the developments in Shi'ism that led to the Babi and Baha'i Faiths.

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

NEW COURSE

Connecting with the joy and laughter that draws seekers to the Baha'i Faith and enlivens Baha'i communities

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

A course on relationships and community life

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 30, 2016 - February 17, 2017)



'Abdu'l-Baha tells us to "laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy by you" (*The Promulgation of Universal Peace* 218). In **Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter**, come build unified friendships, relationships, marriages, and communities with this light-hearted skill-building course. Expand your ability to deepen friendships, have fun together, extend hospitality, share

humorous stories, take a lighter approach to challenges, and more. The course is excellent preparation for couple dates, neighborhood and family activities, and social events. Please invite your friends.

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

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.

April 1 - May 18, 2017
Native American Religion and Spirituality

NEW WEBINAR

April 2 - April 23, 2017
The Qur'an and the Baha'i Faith

April 7 - May 25, 2017
Baha'i Spirituality

April 10 - May 28, 2017
Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

April 15 - June 10, 2017
Climate Change

April 22 - June 7, 2017
Science and Religion

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
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

NEW COURSE

June 2 - July 7, 2017
Home of Love: Marriage, Family, and Community

June 7 - July 26, 2017
Baha'i Spirituality

June 20 - August 8, 2017
The Promised Day Is Come

June 25 - August 12, 2017
The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

July 1 - August 18, 2017
Some Answered Questions

July 15 - September 1, 2017
Dynamic Consultation

NEW COURSE

July 21 - September 15, 2017
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

The full tentative 2017 course schedule is here:
<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/ourcourses/2017-course-schedule/>

Information from the eNewsletter may be copied or reproduced, provided that the following credit is given: "Reprinted from the eNewsletter of the Wilmette Institute," followed by the issue's date. Recipients are encouraged to forward the eNewsletter to friends. If you have questions, please email us at info@wilmetteinstitute.org.

Editors

Robert H. Stockman
Betty J. Fisher

Contributors

June Blue
Wesley Dyring
Caryn Gayfield
Linda Gillette
Anne Grove
Jessica Kerr
Verne Larson
Barney Leith
Keivan Mahmoudi
Christine Muller
Anne Gordon Perry
Frances Pollitt
Rondelle Ruggiero
Cheryll Schuette
Basil Shaw
Robert H. Stockman
Jacqueline Sullivan

Wilmette Institute, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60201-2886 USA
Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388) - Fax: 1.847.733.3563

Email: info@wilmetteinstitute.org

Web: <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>

Moodle: <http://courses.wilmetteinstitute.org>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WilmetteInstitute>

© 2016 National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States
www.bahai.us

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States | 1233 Central Street | Evanston | IL | 60201