



September 2016 eNewsletter

News about Upcoming Courses, Webinars, Web Talks,
Learners' Actions, Upcoming Talks and Conferences, and Much More



Wilmette Institute News

"Baha'u'llah, The Return of Joseph": Web Talk for September 25



Sign up now for Dr. Todd Lawson's September 25 Web Talk on "Baha'u'llah, The Return of Joseph." The Sura of Joseph figured prominently in the May 22, 1844, meeting of Mulla Husayn and the Bab. Learn how it still figures in the Baha'i Faith.

[READ>>](#)

We Need Photographs for Relationship and Marriage Courses!

The Wilmette Institute is updating the photographs it uses for the many relationship and marriage courses that it offers. See what kinds of twenty-first photographs of couples that it needs.

[READ>>](#)

The Final Four Web Talks for 2016

See what Web Talks are in store for you from September 15 through December 2016. It is never too early to sign up. You can also get a peek at how the 2017 Web Talks for shaping up.

[READ>>](#)

July Wilmette Institute Board Meeting Charts Future Directions

Read about the successes of the Wilmette Institute in 2015-16 and its ambitious plans for the new Five Year Plan (2016-21), including collaborating with universities, a project that the Universal House of Justice and the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States are monitoring with interest. [READ>>](#)

Looking for Talks for Personal and Community Deepening? Try Web Talks

The Wilmette Institute now has seventeen Web Talks from which you can choose topics for your personal and community deepening. They include a roster of speakers from around the world and topics ranging from discussions of spiritual topics

September - November 2016 Courses

Mentors are ready to help you improve your skills in writing, the visual arts, and music

Practicing the Arts: A Workshop Course for Baha'i Artists

A course in a series on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Faculty: [Peggy Caton](#), [Marjan Nirou Saniee](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 1 - October 19, 2016)



The **Practicing the Arts** workshop is a hands learning-by-doing course that differs significantly from most Wilmette Institute courses. It is an advanced course designed for those who wish to improve their skills in writing (with Sandra L Hutchison), visual arts (with Marjan Nirou Saniee) and music (with Peggy Caton). After a review of Baha'i writings about art, learners will work on a specific project with the advice and support of

mentors.

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

Learn communication and consultation skills to foster better relationships

Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple

Another course in a series on individuals, marriage, and family development

to perspectives on Baha'i teachings that will prepare you for participating in the prevalent discourses of society. [READ>>](#)

Trip Barthel on "Creativity in Consultation"

The Web Talk on two forms of creativity important for effective consultation-- individual meditation and the clash of differing opinions (both supported by science and the Baha'i writings)--will give you many ideas for enhancing committee and Spiritual Assembly consultation. [READ>>](#)



The Dawning of Baha'i History in the European Continent: An Amazing Web Talk

Listen to Julio Savi's August 28 [Web Talk](#) or [read](#) about the group of women and men in turn-of-the twentieth-century Paris, the City of Light, as they were drawn to the light of a new dispensation and established a Baha'i community in Paris, which was often the jumping-off place for pilgrimages to see 'Abdu'l-Baha in Palestine.



Contributions to Public Discourse

Building Communities in Online Spaces: An IT Perspective

Your kids know more about computers and online social media than you do. But you serve on an institution in your cluster, and you want to explore the environment of online spaces. Here is an article (which is one IT specialist's perspective) that will walk you through this new territory. [READ>>](#)



A "Blessed Ramadan" Sign Opens Doors to Interfaith Dialogue

A learner and her husband enrolled in their first Wilmette Institute course, **Islam for Dialogue and Deepening**, after which they were given a lawn sign saying "To Our Muslim Neighbors: Blessed Ramadan." What could possible go wrong when they put it in their yard? Or was it right? [READ>>](#)



Learners in Action

Exploring the Hebrew Bible Course Creates Opportunities for Sharing with Jewish Family and Sharing with Baha'i Friends



A learner, in her first Wilmette Institute course, finds that **Exploring the Hebrew Bible** opened doors for talking about Jewish

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Five weeks (September 2 - September 30, 2016)



"Family consultation employing full and fr discussion, and animated by awareness of need for moderation and balance, can be panacea for domestic conflict," according letter written on behalf of the Universal H of Justice. In **Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple**, we will discuss how strengthen your relationship or married-c consultation skills; provide a forum for reflecting on the current quality of your

interactions and what you want to improve; and discuss how to build understanding, solve difficulties, and reach effective decisions that you can ca out with confidence. We will also identify spiritual principles and qualities for communication and consultation, including equality, justice, wisdom, tact, and timeliness; foster an understanding of consultation; address challenges; and l to consult well. The course is designed for couples or individuals having a part not enrolled in the course with whom they can work. But it is open to everyon

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

Learn more about the Babis and early Baha'is and how they he us understand the growth of modern Baha'i communities

Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers: The Bab and Babi History, 1844-63

A course exploring the history of the Babi and early Baha'i eras

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 7 - October 25, 2016)



In **Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers** we w study the earliest period of the history of the and Baha'i Faiths--including the life and teach of the Bab and the lives and exploits of His followers, the Dawnbreakers of the Heroic Age--and will provide opportunities for medita on the spiritual qualities needed for those wh endeavor to live a Baha'i life and to serve the

Faith. We will cover the birth of the Babi revelation, including the declaration of the Bab, the enrollment of the Letters of the Living, and the Bab's pilgrimage to Mecca; His banishment to Adhirbayjan; His imprisonments in Maku and Chihri and the Conference of Badasht; upheavals in the Babi communities in Mazand Nayriz, and Zanjan; the martyrdom of the Bab in 1850; developments after th Bab's martyrdom, including an attempt on the life of Nasiri'd-Din Shah; Baha'u'llah's role in helping the Babis and His imprisonment in the Siyah-Chal Tehran; the martyrdom of Tahirih; the executions of many of the Bab's discipl and the fate of those who persecuted the Bab and His followers; and a summ: of the life of the Bab and His followers, the Dawnbreakers. This study of early and Baha'i history is aimed at suggesting how one can understand contempor Baha'i communities and their efforts to grow and expand.

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



religious practices with her Jewish family and for sharing Jewish concepts with her Baha'i friends and relating Jewish concepts to Baha'i teachings. [READ>>](#)

The Five Year Plan Course, Home Visits, and Doodle Drawings

A home-front pioneer from Scotland, with an impressive list of actions she is taking as a result of the Wilmette Institute course on the new Five Year Plan found herself meditating on paragraph 49 of the December 29, 2015, letter from the Universal House and found herself creating a doodle drawing. See what she is doing with the drawing. [READ>>](#)

The Badi' Calendar in a Stained-Glass Skylight

A learner was enrolled in The Badi' Calendar course and a Ruhi book 9 tutor training that emphasized the arts when the architect for the home she and her husband were building asked them for a design for a skylight. The resulting stained-glass art piece is spectacular. [READ>>](#)



News

Final 2016 'Irfan Colloquium to Be Held at Louhelen Baha'i School

This is your final chance to attend an 'Irfan Colloquium in 2016 and to hear papers on a number of topics based on 'Abdu'l-Baha's Tablets of the Divine Plan (plus a potpourri of papers on other topics). [READ>>](#)



Web Talks/Webinars on Building Capacity in Work Places, the Story of Joseph, Baha'i Law, Forgiveness, the Hands of the Cause of God, South Carolina Baha'is, and a Baha'i Economic System?

[ebbf Pre-Event Learning Session No. 1](#) / Sept. 1

Nabil Elias
"Accompaniment as a Foundation of Capacity Building"

[ebbf Pre-Event Learning Session No. 2](#) / Sept. 8

Valerie Davis
"Building Capacity in a Collaborative Culture"

[ebbf Pre-Event Learning Session No. 3](#) / Sept. 15

Mahid Masrour
"Rethinking Organizations and Capacity Building with a View of Abundance"

How does sustainable development relate to you, your neighborhood, your Baha'i community, and the world?

Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind

A course in a series on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#)

Faculty: [Gary Colliver](#), [Carole Flood](#), [Christine Muller](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 10 - October 28, 2016)



In **Sustainable Development and Prosperity of Humankind** we will address the urgent need to make a fundamental transition away from a society and economy that are threaten our planetary security. From a Baha'i perspective, we will start with a general introduction to sustainable development

and seek to understand its profound implications in achieving the prosperity of humankind. Our objectives include teaching ourselves how to think about sustainability by integrating both the material and spiritual dimensions of life a long-term systems perspective; how to apply that thinking to questions of everyday life and lifestyle; how to use it to start meaningful and distinctive conversations; and how to incorporate it into our community action, reflection and consultation. We will review the economic, social, and environmental issues that humanity faces in achieving sustainability and discuss the spiritual principles that can help us find solutions. We will then examine perspectives for the future, both those that show the unsustainability of the present system, including the constraints that have limited women's contribution, and those that show the path for fundamental change--all contrasted with the Baha'i vision of a new world order leading to the prosperity of humankind. We will explore the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda being adopted at the UN. Finally, we will look at the importance, for sustainable development, of education reinforced with spiritual values as the basis for helping each of us detach ourselves from Western materialistic civilization; reexamine our present lifestyles; and begin to live more sustainably in accordance with the Baha'i teachings.

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

Study Buddhism to learn more about progressive revelation and develop skills for sharing the Baha'i revelation

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue

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

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Faculty: [Robert H. Stockman](#)

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

In **Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue** we will survey the life and teaching of the Buddha, the development of His ideas, and the widespread dissemination of Buddhism over much of Asia and, since the late nineteenth century, to the West. We will also read some Buddhist texts and examine similarities and differences between Buddhism and the Baha'i Faith (and other religions), including the emphasis both place on personal transformation. The course will deepen your

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Sept. 24

B. Todd Lawson

"The Story of Joseph"

[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. 6

Jena Khodadad

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

[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](#) / Mar. 12, 2017

Houshmand Badee

"Is There a Baha'i Economic System?"

Conferences on Peace; the Tablets of the Divine Plan; Persian Culture; AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse; Children and Youth in an Interconnected World; Building Capacity in the Work Place; Sustainable Lifestyles; Religions; and Our Place in the Natural World

[Association of Friends of Persian Culture Conference](#) / Sept. 1-4

Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center, Schaumburg, Illinois

[BNASAA Conference 2016](#) / Santa Cruz, California / Sept. 8-11

Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse Conference

Bosch Baha'i School. [Registration now open.](#)[3d Global Conference of World's Religions After September 11](#) / Sept. 15

Montreal, Canada

Live webcasting available.

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Conference](#)

/ College Park, Maryland / Sept. 28-29

Learning Outside the Lines: A Conference on Children and Youth in an Interconnected World University of Maryland

[ebbf Building Capacity Conference](#) /

understanding of an important religion that began in India and will prepare you for discussing spiritual concepts and practices with Buddhist friends and neighbors. All readings for this course will be provided online, with no purchase of books required.

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

Learn how to help your Baha'i community save and preserve its precious records

[How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives](#)

Another in a series of courses on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Roger Dahl](#)

Faculty: [Sue Rishworth](#), [Lois Walker](#)

Duration of course: Fourteen weeks (September 22 - December 22, 2016)



Organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives & taught by three Baha'i archivists, **How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives** will introduce local and national Baha'i archivists to principles that will help them to organize and maintain their collections. Registration for the course is open to local and national Baha'i archivists (and to others by permission of the National Archives). The course will include activities requiring access to archival materials in

Baha'i archives. Two units will cover basic archival principles; the acquisition, arranging, and processing of records and personal papers, including electronic records; nonpaper materials, including digital assets; reference services; exhibit quarters for housing archival materials; and preservation. Another unit will involve your working on an archival project: either a survey of your archives or advance work on a project of your choosing. A final unit will guide you through a final report and proposal to your Local or National Spiritual Assembly.

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

Learn how new understandings of Native American religion can enrich your understanding of the Baha'i Faith and of spirituality

[Native American Religion and Spirituality](#)

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

Lead Faculty: [Paula Bidwell](#)

Faculty: [Kamao Cappo](#), [Richard Hainsworth](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 1 - November 18, 2016)



In **Native American Religion and Spirituality** we will focus on indigenous spirituality and the universal message

Bucharest, Romania / Oct. 6-9

Building Capacity: Developing Volition and Latent Talent in People and Organizations to Create a More Meaningful Workplace and Civilization

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

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Louhelen Baha'i School, English and Persian

[20th Annual International Environment Forum Conference](#), Santa Cruz, Bolivia / Oct. 7-9

Focus on Responsible and Sustainable Lifestyles, Values and Education, and Sustainable Urban Communities

Nur University

[Dedication, Mashriqu'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](#) / Desert Rose Baha'i Institute / Feb. 17-19, 2017

Theme: "Our Place in the Natural World"

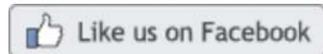
Call for papers: deadline Jan. 15, 2017

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

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)

[Baha'i International Community](#)

[Bosch Baha'i School](#)



of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how the spiritual teaching in Native American religion echo and parallel similar teachings found in the Baha'i writings, how Baha'i understandings of spirituality and religion are expanded considering Native traditions, how culture affects the way in which Baha'is look at reality, 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. We will cover a wide range of topics including how to understand and communicate without cultural divides, developing an awareness of our inherent biases, the historical and contemporary effects of Christianity on Native populations, how such effects influence our interactions today and our presentations of the Faith, and the uncomfortable subject of colonization and how it affects Native Americans and European Descendent Americans. In our readings, discussions, and consultations we will focus on encouraging differing ideas, insights, and perspectives on our issues to broaden our understandings and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

[Course Description](#)

[Fees](#)

[Course Schedule](#)

[Register](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

Explore Baha'u'llah's own summary of themes He considered important for understanding His Faith

[Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

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

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 response to His revelation; and accounts of martyrs that illustrate the transforming power of the Baha'i Faith. Revealed for an early member of the Baha'i Faith, Shaykh Muhammad-Taqi (surnamed "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 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: Shoghi Effendi's Blueprint for Executing 'Abdu'l-Baha's Charter for Teaching](#)

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

[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

December 1, 2016 - January 17, 2017
[Writing Biographies and Histories](#)

December 20, 2016 - February 6, 2017
[Introduction to Shi'i Islam](#)

NEW COURSE

December 30, 2016 - February 16, 2017
[Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter](#)

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](#)

January 25 - March 10, 2017
[Science and Religion](#)

February - July 2017 Course Schedule

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

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

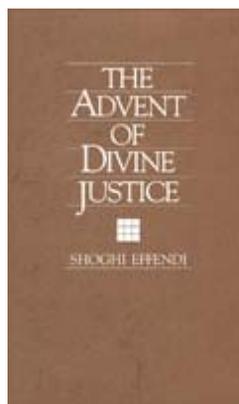
February 15 - April 4, 2017
 Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

March 1 - April 26, 2017
 Century of Light

March 10 - April 10, 2017

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

Duration of course: Seven 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 tremor and 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 understands 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 fur

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 creation 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* cannot be more imperative.

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

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

Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage

A course in a series on the individual, 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 on 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 requirement for Baha'i marriage; the couple's responsibilities during courtship and before asking parents for consent to marry; parental responsibilities during courtship, consent 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

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

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

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

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

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
The Mashriqu'l-Adkar: The First Hundred Years

May 1 - June 1, 2017
Feast Consultation

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, 1863-2016

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 15 - August 9, 2017
Introduction to the Qur'an

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

[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-Bah

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-B Will and Testament and Tablets of the Divine Plan. V 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 "th distinct processes" that Shoghi Effendi states these

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 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](#)

NEW COURSE

July 21 - September 15, 2017
 Are We Ready for Marriage?

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



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](#)

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

[The Promise of World Peace](#)

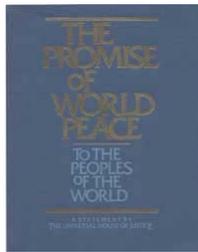
A course in a series on the writings of the Universal House of Justice

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 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 and 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 document 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

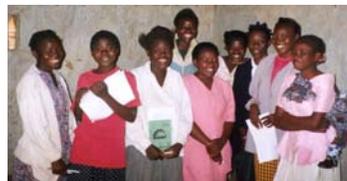
[The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life](#)

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** 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; 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, 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 webinar course on His first proclamation to the kings of the world

[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](#)

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 22 - January 9, 2017)



The year 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the revelation of Baha'u'llah's seminal proclamatory tablet, 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 long 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 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 online study will include a number of webinars.

[Course Description](#)

[Fees](#)

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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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