

December 2017 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars, Conferences

Wilmette Institute News

A Psychology for Our Times and the Spiritual Destiny of America--Two Web Talks for December



During the first two Sundays in December you will have a chance to ground yourself for later December conversations: Dr. Elena Mustakova "A Psychology That

Responds to Our Times" and will put you on track to becoming an awakened, aligned, and liberated spirit. Reba Carruth will start a trilogy on "The Spiritual Destiny of America and the West." [READ>>>](#)

The Wilmette Institute Announces Courses for Its First Term, January-March 2018

Courses for the Wilmette Institute's January, February, and March are now open for registration. Check out a chronological listing as well as listings by the Institute's new departments. [READ>>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Continues to Experiment with On-Site /Online

Courses for Next Three Months

December 2017 - February 2018

A Register-When-You-Need-It Course. Sign up anytime. Work at your own pace.

[Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Open to individuals, couples, families, and community groups. Study is self-guided. Relationship coaches are available as needed for help. One couple had this to say: "The course helped a great deal to get my fiancé and me even more on the same page with regard to how the Faith was guiding our preparation, and we both managed to get consent from our families. . . We wanted to thank you all for all your help."



[Watch the video](#)

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

A Register-When-You-Need-It Course. Sign up anytime. Work at your own pace.

[Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)



Courses--This Time in Canada

Spiritual Assemblies in Edmonton and Saskatoon, Canada, partnered with the Wilmette Institute's Relationship and Marriage Team to host

on-site/on-line courses on "A New Race of Couples" and "Conscious Courtship."

[READ>>](#)

A Library of Web Talks 24/7/365:

Robert Atkinson Trilogy on



Transformation in Our Society

Take a break during the hectic holiday season, and listen to Robert Atkinson's three talks about how transformation in our world society can take place and what you can do now to help.

[READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Web Talks for December - February

[Access information about Wilmette Institute Web Talks and lists of talks from 2015 through 2018.](#)

"A Psychology That Responds to Our Times: Transforming Inner Oppression into Awakened, Aligned, and Liberated Spirit"

Dec. 3, 2017 / Elena Mustakova-Possardt
Learn about the systemic cultivation of cultures of social health that foster in people spiritual awakening and progressively more empowered alignment with planetary transformation.

"The Spiritual Destiny of America"

Dec. 10, 2017 / Reba Carruth (1 of 3)
A three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Bahá'í writings, and their shared principles of governance, society, markets, scientific enlightenment for the public good, commonwealth, and protection of the natural environment.

"Ten Plagues of the Exodus in the Light of the Baha'i Writings" Jan. 14, 2018 / InAnn Bernovicka

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Open to couples seriously discussing marrying. Participants will be assigned a faculty-mentor.

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



Learn how you can help preserve the history of a young Faith

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places

One in a series on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Thelma Batchelor](#), [Roger Dahl](#), [Richard Hollinger](#), [Jenny Lockwood](#), [Adam Thorne](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 1, 2017 - January 18, 2018)

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places

is designed to help Baha'is who wish to compose a memoir about their own lives, produce a biography of a Baha'i mentor, or write the history of their local Baha'i community. 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 with support and advice from 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](#)

Find out more about the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith

Baha'i Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Creation,

Understanding the story of the Exodus and the plagues of Egypt and how the biblical story of the Exodus is highly relevant today.

["The Spiritual Destiny of America and the West"](#) Jan. 21, 2018 / Reba Carruth (2 of 3)

The second of a three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Baha'i writings, and their shared principles.

["The Spiritual Destiny of America and the West"](#) Feb. 4, 2018 / Reba Carruth (3 of 3)

The third of a three-part series examining the historical and spiritual convergence of the teachings of the Christian Faith, the Baha'i writings, and their shared principles.

["The Awakening of Spirit: Mark Tobey and the Evolution of 'White Writings'"](#)

Feb. 11, 2018 / Robert Weinberg
Tobey's breakthrough in modern art resulted from his deep knowledge of the art of the past and diverse cultures, and his desire to convey Bahá'í spirituality through his work.

Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

**Living Responsibly
Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer: Choose Reusable Shopping Bags**

*"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful Prayers."--
'Abdu'l-Baha*

With all the shopping some of us have to do during December, this month's tip is timely. Replace plastic bags with sturdy cloth or recycled plastic ones. See the reasons why.

[READ>>](#)



"Our Planet, Our Health, Our Responsibility" Statement

Check out the 2017 statement by the

Humanity, Afterlife, and Covenant

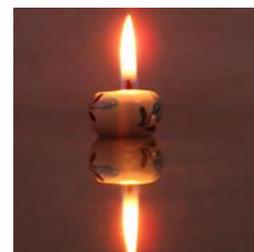
A course in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Mikhail Sergeev](#)

Faculty: [Ian Kluge](#)

Duration of course: Ten weeks (December 7 - February 14, 2018)

Baha'i Theology provides an in-depth study of the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith that deal with the study of God, creation, and the relationship between them. The units are organized around a series of topics such as creation and evolution, the nature of God's Manifestations and their revelations, religious ethics, and theology in action. This course is ideal for both Baha'is and others who want to delve more deeply into the teachings of the Faith.



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

Learn more about the Guardian's multifaceted contributions to the growth of the Faith

Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry

A course in the series on Baha'i history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 10, 2017 - January 27, 2018)



In **Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry** we will look briefly at the unique position held by Shoghi Effendi, his childhood and youth (1897-1921), and more extensively at his ministry as Guardian of the Baha'i Faith (1921-57). We will consider the many roles Shoghi Effendi filled (builder, interpreter, author, and translator) as he carried out his duties as Guardian in fostering the growth and development of the Baha'i Faith. He devoted much of his ministry to building the administrative order outlined by

Pontifical Academy of Sciences called "[Our Planet, Our Health, Our Responsibility](#)." For the [full report, photographs, and Parliament of World Religions support, look at Parliament of World Regions site](#).

News

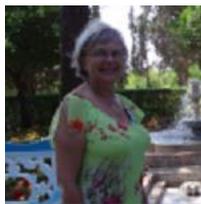
Student PowerPoint on the Iqan Posted to Wilmette Institute Website



Marco Oliveira, a Baha'i in Portugal, has created a colorful and informative PowerPoint on the Kitab-i-Iqan that you will want to copy to your hard drive for study of the Book of

Certitude. [READ>>](#)

Course on the Kitab-i-Iqan Opens Student to Giving Talks and Publishing



A Baha'i from Norway, Mari Haugen, started the course on the Iqan shy about sharing her work and ended up giving talks to large and small audiences from notes and

offering a unit on religion to a publisher. [READ>>](#)

Sustainable Development Course Contributes to a PhD Thesis

The Sustainable Development course prompts a Singapore Bahá'í to use his learnings in his PhD thesis, try his hand at a multistaged



sustainable development process, and open a conversation with a French Bahá'í about logic in sustainability. [READ>>](#)

Preserving Baha'i History, One Baha'i Item at a Time: The Importance of Baha'i Archives

Two learners in the course **How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives** 2016 share stories (definitely not dusty or musty) from New York

Baha'u'llah and elaborated by 'Abdu'l-Baha in His Will and Testament and to using it as an instrument for fostering the international spread of the Baha'i Faith called for by 'Abdu'l-Baha in the Tablets of the Divine Plan. Shoghi Effendi also worked tirelessly to extend and beautify the properties of the Baha'i World Center in Haifa and Acre, to erect the facade of the Shrine of the Bab, and to prepare a physical home for the center of the administrative order. Shoghi Effendi translated many writings of Baha'u'llah into English, translated and edited a history of the Babi period of the Faith, penned thousands of letters clarifying basic Baha'i teachings, and wrote the classic history of the first hundred years of the Faith's beginnings. His devotion, self-sacrifice, and suffering are an inspiration to Baha'is of all generations.

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

Study the prerequisites of world peace to enrich your conversations with like-minded friends

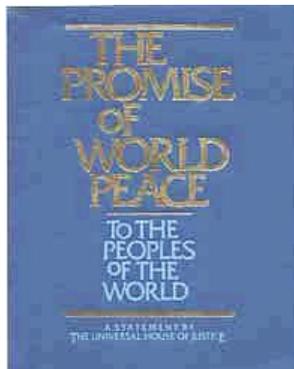
The Promise of World Peace

One in a series on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Dan Wheatley](#)

Duration of course: Six weeks (December 15, 2017 - January 25, 2018)



The Promise of World Peace was a ground-breaking document when the Universal House of Justice issued it in 1985. Its discussions of issues necessary for achieving peace (religion; subordinating national self-interest to the requirements of world order; eliminating racism, disparities between rich and poor, and nationalism; emancipating women; abolishing war; accepting the oneness of humankind) remain relevant today, perhaps even more so. This course will take us through the text in depth and

familiarize us with the document's themes and arguments so that we can draw on them in our conversations and discourses. We will enrich our understanding by engaging with documents and videos from Baha'i and other sources.

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

How can fun, laughter, and vitality create unified friendships, marriages, and communities?

Creating Unity with

State and Kansas City, Missouri, about what they have learned about their communities and how it has enhanced their appreciation for Baha'i history. [READ>>](#)

News

Local Baha'i Temple in Norte del Cauca, Columbia, Rises and Prompts Villagers Questions

The local Baha'i House of Worship in Norte del Cauca, its design inspired by the cocoa pod, is rising from its forest setting, prompting a Baha'i who rides a bus near the site to have the driver slow down so that she can explain what the building is. [Read more and watch a time-lapse video \(2:33\) of the construction](#) as of November 2017.

New BahaiBookstore.com Website Launched

Be sure to check out the Baha'i Publishing Trust/Baha'i Distribution Service's new modern-looking and user-friendly website at BahaiBookstore.com from you desktop computer, tablet, or smartphone. It has many new additions, a Sales Basket, links to freebies, podcasts, social media platforms and more.

The Journal of Baha'i Studies, Fall 2017, Now Available

The Association for Baha'i Studies has announced the free availability of its Fall 2017 issue of *The Journal of Baha'i Studies* devoted to the subject of racial discrimination that is still far from being solved. It contains an editorial, 3 articles, a book review, and 2 poems. [Download your free copy](#), and share with friends.

United Religions Initiative Launches New Website

The [United Religions Initiative](#) (URI), the largest and fastest-growing interfaith organization in the world, with a presence in 102 countries, has recently launched a new website. Check it out.

Podcasts by Other Organizations

[ethical business for a better future Podcasts](#)

Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter

One in a series about creating balanced lifestyle

Lead Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

Faculty: [Fiona McDonald](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 26, 2017 - February 9, 2018)

'Abdu'l-Baha tells us to "laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy" by us. 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](#)

How can you hone your skills for interfaith dialogue?

Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

A course in a series on Baha'i thought

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Faculty: [JoAnn Borovika](#), [Anne Pearson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 5 - February 22, 2018)

At a time when the "world-devouring fire" of religious fanaticism is spreading, and fundamentalism is rife, while, simultaneously, growing numbers of people consider themselves spiritual but not religious, the need to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue is growing. In **Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue** we will explore how to respectfully participate in dialogue with people of all faiths and no faith in a learning mode. Inspired by the Baha'i Faith's call to "Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship," we will draw on Baha'i and other resources to learn about



Episode 6: How can consultation evolve decision-making and other organizational processes?

Episode 7: Collaboration, the shift from self-interested competition

Conferences and Colloquia

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Feb. 16-18, 2018

Eighth Annual Arts & Scholars Symposium

Theme: "Finding Common Belief"

Call for papers ends Jan. 17, 2018.

Registration is open.

[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#) / May 17-20, 2018

"Rethinking Governance, Exploring New Frameworks for Decision-Making and Action"

Geneva, Switzerland

Registration is open.

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / May 24-28, 2018

English and Persian

Bosch Bahá'í School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / June 27-July 2, 2018

Persian only

Center for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 3-6, 2018

English only

Center for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 19-22, 2018

German only

Tambach Seminary Center, Tambach, Germany

[Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference](#) / Aug. 9-12, 2018
Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta, GA, USA

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / October 4-7, 2018

Persian and English

Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

[Parliament of the World's Religions](#) / Nov. 1-7, 2018

"The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding"

theoretical and practical aspects of local interfaith dialogue. We will also look at the importance of public discourse about the role of religion in society and will focus on sharing ideas, insights, and perspectives on interfaith relations to broaden our understanding and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

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

You, too, can learn how to help maintain the records (archives) of your community

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

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

Lead Faculty: [Roger Dahl](#)

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

Duration of course: Three months (January 8 - April 8, 2018)

How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives introduces

those of you working in local and national Baha'i archives to principles that will help you organize and maintain your archival collections. Hence you will need permission from the appropriate Spiritual Assembly.

Two units will cover basic archival principles, including the acquisition, arrangement, and processing of records, personal papers, and photographs. Another unit will guide you as you work on an archival project: either a survey of your archives or advanced work on a project of your choosing. The last unit will guide you through a final report and proposal to your Local or National Spiritual Assembly. The course is organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives and taught by three Baha'i archivists.



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

NEW COURSE

How is friendship related to dating, courtship, and marriage?

[Exploring Friendship, Dating, and Courtship](#)

A course in a series on relationships, parenting, and family life

Lead Faculty: [Leslie Asplund](#), [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Marabeth Lum](#)

Reconciliation, and Change"
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND OTHER LINKS

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute: Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Deepen Webinars](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Web Talks](#)

Social Media Links

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: YouTube Channel](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Pinterest](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Google +](#)
[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)
[International Baha'i Website](#)
[International Environment Forum](#)
['Irfan Colloquia](#)
[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

**FIRST TERM (JANUARY - MARCH
2018)**

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 9 - February 2, 2018)

Relationships are an adventure in a world that seems to keep re-defining them. Explore with us the Baha'i teachings that encourage friendship as a component of relationships and marriage. Learn together about the many ways to know someone's character and connect with them on a deeper level. Discuss how to apply spiritual principles to developing a relationship that could lead to marriage. The course is suitable for people not yet in a relationship and for those in the beginning stages of one.



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

How can the Kitab-i-Aqdas help you understand Baha'u'llah's new world order?

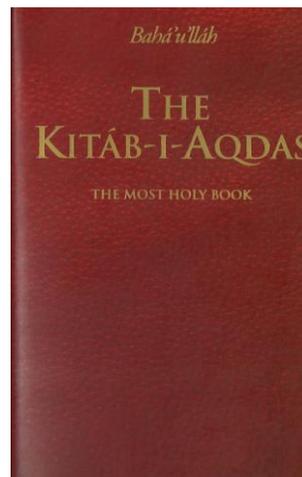
Introduction to the Kitab-i-Aqdas

A pivotal course for exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 10 - February 28, 2018)

About the Kitab-i-Aqdas, Shoghi Effendi has written that it "may well be regarded as the brightest emanation of the mind of Baha'u'llah, as the Mother Book of His Dispensation, and the Charter of His New World Order." He further refers to the Kitab-i-Aqdas as "the principal repository of that Law which the Prophet Isaiah had anticipated, and which the writer of the Apocalypse had described as the 'new heaven' and the 'new earth,' as 'the Tabernacle of God,' as the 'Holy City,' as the 'Bride,' the 'New Jerusalem coming down from God,' this 'Most Holy Book,' whose provisions must remain inviolate for no less than a thousand years, and whose system will embrace the entire planet. . . ." We will read the Kitab-i-Aqdas and supplemental texts related to it, while studying several of its main themes: covenant, succession, and manifestation; Baha'i institutions, including the rulers and the learned, the Universal House of Justice, Houses of Worship, Feasts, Holy Days, and the Baha'i calendar; the nature and purpose of Baha'u'llah's laws; Baha'u'llah's ordinances; prohibitions and punishments; Baha'u'llah's proclamations to kings, rulers, places,



NEW COURSE: [Baha'i Institutions, the Community, and the Individual](#)
March 1 - April 18, 2018

[Health Care and Social Action](#)
March 7 - April 24, 2018

[Three Charters of the Faith: The Tablet of Carmel, The Tablets of the Divine Plan, and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha](#)
March 10 - April 27, 2018

[The Baha'i Faith and the Arts](#)
March 15 - April 25, 2018

[Some Answered Questions](#)
March 25 - May 19, 2018

SECOND TERM (APRIL - JUNE 2018)

[Climate Change](#)
April 1 - May 16, 2018

NEW TITLE: [Indigenous Approaches to the Sacred](#)
April 15 - June 2, 2018

[The Advent of Divine Justice](#)
April 25 - June 12, 2018

May - December 2018 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for May through December 2018. The schedule is subject to change.

Second Term (April - June 2018)

The Hebrew Bible
May 1 - June 18, 2018

The Bab and the Babi Movement
May 5 - June 22, 2018

NEW COURSE: Helping Children Navigate Media and Screen Time
May 7 - June 10, 2018

Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas
May 10 - June 28, 2018

and groups of people; education and transformation; and teaching the Baha'i Faith.

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

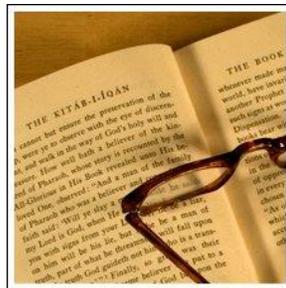
How can you learn better ways to read the Baha'i writings deeply and systematically?

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

A course to help you read and understand the Baha'i writings better

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 15 - March 3, 2018)



Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings introduces students to a systematic method of studying Baha'i scripture using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course, we will view passages from Baha'i scripture through four "windows" on the meaning of divine wisdom: language, theme, structure, and the work as a whole. We will also discuss briefly five

other "windows": biography, historical context, oeuvre (the place of a work in the entire body of the author's works), literary tradition, and world scriptural tradition. The course is designed to help students learn to read slowly and carefully and to assist them in developing tools for analyzing Baha'i texts systematically.

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

Why is agriculture and food essential to the reconstruction of the world?

[Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food](#)

One of many Wilmette Institute courses on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)
Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#), [Kim Naqvi](#), [Gary Reusche](#), [Neil Whatley](#), [Robert White](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 20 - March 9, 2018)

Introduction to Islam
May 15 - July 2, 2018

One Common Faith
June 1 - July 19, 2018

Conscious Parenting of 3 and 4 Year Olds
June 4 - July 8

Baha'i Principles as They Relate to
Discourses on Governance
June 10 - July 28, 2018

Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic
Survey
June 15 - August 2, 2018

Economics and the Baha'i Faith
June 20 - August 8, 2018

Third Term (July - August 2018)

Introduction to Buddhism
July 1 - August 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: Making Time and Service
Choices as a Couple
July 8 - July 30, 2018

Building a World Federation
August 15 - October 3, 2018

The Tabernacle of Unity
August 20 - October 8, 2018

The Destiny of America
August 25 - October 13, 2018

Fourth Term (September - December 2018)

Sustainable Development and the
Prosperity of Humankind
September 1 - October 19, 2018

Fostering a Baha'i Identity in Children
September 3 - October 28, 2018

The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive
Introduction
September 10 - October 29, 2018

Introduction to Baha'i History, 1844-
Present
September 15 - November 13, 2018

Consulting as a Couple: Understanding
and Decision
September 17 - October 8, 2018

Baha'u'llah described agriculture as a "a vital and important matter" that was foremost among the principles "conducive to the advancement of mankind and to the reconstruction of the world."

Yet current agricultural policy often prioritizes yield and profit over health, sustainability, and sociocultural features of rural communities, while the poor struggle to even feed themselves, and climate change makes farming increasingly unpredictable. These and other factors threaten food security. In **Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food**, we will examine the teachings of the Baha'i Faith on agriculture, food, and rural development; relate these teachings to contemporary public discourse on these issues; and suggest ways in which agricultural activities can be incorporated into core activities, community-building, and emerging social action.



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

NEW COURSE

Gain confidence in talking about racism and racial prejudice and participating in public discourse on the topic

Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue

One in a series of courses on society and social change

Faculty: [Niki Daniels](#), [Guy Emerson Mount](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 1 - April 4, 2018)

Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue will examine racism and racial prejudice in American society in some of its most serious manifestations, explore the content and significance of relevant Baha'i authoritative texts, and consider how Baha'is can initiate meaningful conversation and public discourse in a variety of contexts. It will begin with an exploration of definitions of race, racism, and prejudice. It will then turn to such subjects as understanding colonialism and slavery; the prison/industrial complex; Black Lives Matter and policing issues; white privilege and bias/stereotyping; housing and education segregation; violence against black women; Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Movement; and one human family: the Baha'i community. Each unit will consider relevant Baha'i texts and efforts.



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

NEW COURSE: Sharing the Twin Birthdays with Children
September 17 - October 28, 2018

Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice of Creative Writing
September 25 - November 13, 2018

The Book of Isaiah
October 1 - November 19, 2018

The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story
October 5 - November 22, 2018

The Baha'i Faith and Social Change
October 10 - November 28, 2018

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf
October 15 - December 3, 2018

Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry
October 20 - December 8, 2018

Building Intercultural Understanding as a Couple
October 22 - November 19, 2018

Communication Skills for Spiritually Minded Parents
October 29 - December 16, 2018

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places
November 1 - December 19, 2018

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith
November 10 - December 28, 2018

Introduction to Shi'i Islam
November 15 - January 2, 2019

Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith
December 1 - January 18, 2018

The Promise of World Peace
December 5 - January 23, 2019

Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue
December 15 - February 12, 2019

[Click here for the 2018 course schedule.](#)

NEW COURSE

A parenting course helping parents and families to prepare for a new baby

Nurturing Your Baby Spiritually during Pregnancy

A course in a series on parenting

Lead Faculty: [Swathi Baskaran](#)
Faculty: [Chelsea Lee Smith](#)

Duration of course: Six weeks (February 5 - March 18, 2018)

Learn with others how to nurture the spiritual well-being of your baby during pregnancy and discuss the changes you, the parents, experience during this significant change. Topics include the role and preparation of mothers, fathers, and other family members for the changes ahead; the use of prayer and spiritual scripture throughout the experience; the marriage and family unit as the secure foundation for the well-being of the child; and building a spiritual and emotional support network for new parents. The course will also be useful for a couple who is planning to become pregnant.



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

Undertake a historical and thematic study of the principal writings of the Bab

The Writings of the Bab

A course exploring the revelation of the Bab

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)
Faculty: [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 10 - April 6, 2018)

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



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

NEW COURSE

Learn how to manage your busy lives and deepen your friendship and love for each other

Enhancing Love and Friendship in Your Marriage

Another in a series on relationships and marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)
Faculty: [Fariba Vahdat](#), [Riaz Mostaghim](#)

Duration of course: One month (February 12 - March 12, 2018)

In happy marriages, couples are intimate and loving companions who know each other well. However, the press of busy lives can unconsciously lessen your connection. This course will help you deepen your understanding of each other with practical tools related to friendship and expressing love. You will choose couple practices to have as the culture of your marriage that enhance your unity. Enjoy re-discovering the special gifts you each bring to your union.



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

Learn more about the Perfect Exemplar and His contributions to the Baha'i Faith

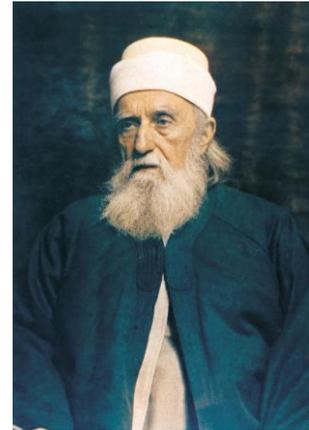
[`Abdu'l-Bahá: His Life and Ministry](#)

One in a series on Baha'i history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (February 20 - April 16, 2018)

'Abdu'l-Baha, the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and the Perfect Exemplar for humankind, is unique in religious history. While He is not a Manifestation of God, He is closer in station to a Manifestation than to the station of humanity. Drawing on statements by 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi, as well as writings by many Baha'is, we will explore 'Abdu'l-Baha's life, station, roles, titles, writings, talks, travels, accomplishments, relationship to Baha'u'llah, and impact on others. We will also examine 'Abdu'l-Baha's first five decades, 1844-92; His station as the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and His early years as Head of the Faith, 1892-1910; His travels to and talks in Europe and North America, 1911-13, and His guidance of the Baha'is in those areas; World War I and war and peace, 1914-21; His Will and Testament and His passing in 1921; and selected topics about 'Abdu'l-Baha (teachings about governance; philosophy and theology; and evolution).



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

NEW COURSE

Explore Baha'u'llah's tablet to Nasiri'd-Din Shah with texts and webinars

[Lawh-i-Sultan: Baha'u'llah's Tablet to Nasiri'd-Din Shah](#)

A course exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

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

Duration of course: one month (February 25 - March 25, 2018)

The course **Lawh-i-Sultan: Baha'u'llah's Tablet to Nasiri'd-Din Shah** is a study of

Baha'u'llah's weighty summons and divine pronouncement to the despotic Persian ruler Nasiri'd-Din Shah (r. 1848-96) of Qajar Iran. We will examine the contents of this proclamation to the monarch of Baha'u'llah's native Persia. It is His "lengthiest epistle to any single sovereign." In addition to inviting the ruler to "aid His [God's] Faith and turn towards His justice," Baha'u'llah delineates some of the most significant precepts of His Revelation. The course will include three one-hour webinars.



[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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