

March 2018 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars, Conferences

Letter from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

National Spiritual Assembly Urges Proposals for ABS Annual Conference by March 15

For the Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference in Atlanta, August 9-12, 2018, the [National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States](#) urges a cross-section of Baha'is to attend and to consider submitting proposals for breakout sessions (deadline March 15). The letter contains a link to the July 24, 2013, letter from the Universal House of Justice about the ABS and its mission.

Unrest in Iran and Principles Guiding Bahá'ís Conduct

[The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States has sent to the American Baha'i community a letter \(February 2, 2018\)](#) noting the unrest in Iran and explaining what "avoiding entanglements" in "political controversies" and "political nonpartisanship" mean and urging renewed study of the [March 2, 2013, letter from the Universal House of Justice](#) addressed to the Baha'is of Iran.

Courses for Next Three Months

March - May 2018

Anytime Courses Appear at the End of the List of Courses

First-Term Course: **NEW COURSE**
Explore how the Baha'i Faith is organized and the relationships among its component parts

[The Baha'i Institutions, the Community, and the Individual](#)

A course in a series on the Baha'i community

Lead Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)
Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 1 - April 18, 2018)

Wilmette Institute News

The Wilmette Institute Announces Courses for Its Second Term, April-June

The second-term courses (April-June) for the Wilmette Institute brings thirteen offerings, spread over four departments: Social Transformation (three), History and Texts (five), Marriage and Parenting (two), and Religion, Philosophy, and Theology (three). [READ>>](#)

Spiritual and Intellectual Gifts in March Web Talks: The Hands of the Cause of God Collis Featherstone and Clara Dunn and Artist Mark Tobey

March has a bounty of Web Talks: On two successive Saturdays (in the U.S.) Mariette Leong talks about the Hands of the Cause of God Collis Featherstone and Clara Dunn. And Rob Weinberg discusses artist Mark Tobey. [READ>>](#)



Letter to the Editor: Standing Up for Equality of Women and Men

An article for a newspaper and an early morning phone call wake up Jerry Johnson to how speaking up for the equality of women and men can bring results. [READ>>](#)

Letter to the Editor: A Pat on the Back for a Future Virtual University

Having taken eight Wilmette Institute courses, Rodney Richards appreciates what he gets out of the online courses and what he sees in the future for this nascent educational endeavor. [READ>>](#)



Wilmette Institute Web Talks for March - April

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

"Recollections of My Father: the Hand

"The individual, the institutions, and the community--the three protagonists in the Divine Plan--are being shaped under the direct influence" of Baha'u'llah's "Revelation," writes the Universal House of Justice in its December 28, 2010, message to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counselors, "and a new conception of each, appropriate for a humanity that has come of age, is emerging. The relationships that bind them, too, are undergoing a profound transformation, bringing into the realm of existence civilization-building powers which can only be released through conformity with His decree. At a fundamental level these relationships are characterized by cooperation and reciprocity, manifestations of the interconnectedness that governs the universe." In this course we will have the opportunity to study and reflect in depth about the nature of the three protagonists and their roles and relationships. Enriched by our deeper understanding gained from the course, we will be better equipped to play our parts in the building of the new civilization envisioned by Baha'u'llah.



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

First-Term Course
Health care from a Baha'i perspective for action and discourse during the Five Year Plan

Health Care and Social Action

A course in a series on society and social change

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 7 - April 24, 2018)

Health Care and Social Action, a collaboration of Health for Humanity and the Wilmette Institute, will examine existing models of health and wellness and explore concepts in the Baha'i writings that might contribute to these models.



Beginning with a review of definitions of health and wellness by the World Health Organization and others, we will explore selected readings, attempting to identify goals for which we can strive when seeking health for individuals and society. Then we will examine research and readings on happiness and its interface with health and wellness. Finally, we will conclude with the hypothesis that the Baha'i teachings speak uniquely to health, wellness, and happiness and that an organized approach to discourse and action is timely and necessary within the Five Year Plan and beyond. This course is ideal for students, health-care

[of the Cause of God Collis Featherstone"](#)
SATURDAY, Mar. 3, 2018, 9 p.m. EST =
Sunday, Mar. 4, 2018, 11 a.m., Eastern
Australia Time / Mariette Leong

["Recollections of the Hand of the Cause of
God Clara Dunn"](#)
SATURDAY, Mar. 10, 2018, 9 p.m. EST =
Sunday, Mar. 11, 2018, 11 a.m., Eastern
Australia Time / Mariette Leong

["The Awakening of Spirit: Mark Tobey and
the Evolution of 'White Writings'"](#)
Mar. 25, 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.

["The Special Place of America in the Baha'i
Authoritative Texts"](#)
Sunday, Apr. 8, 2018
Valerie Phillips

["Economic Life: Reflections on the House
of Justice Message of March 1, 2017"](#)
Apr. 22, 2018
Gregory Dahl

Learners in Action

An Oral Historian Gains New Insights into How to Tell Better Stories of People and Places for The Oklahoma Baha'i Oral History Project

A passion for audiovisual
oral histories led Mark
Vaccaro to sign up for the
online course on **Writing
Biographies and
Histories**. Read about
how enriching his
knowledge and techniques confirmed him
in his devotion to oral histories. [READ>>](#)



Unexpected: How a Pioneer Achieved His Goals for Course on Shoghi Effendi



Brian Wessell, a pioneer
for some eighteen years,
found a way to use Skype
to further the goals he set
for himself in a course on
the life and ministry of
Shoghi Effendi. [READ>>](#)

professionals, and others seeking an opportunity for discourse
and action in the health-care field. It is not a course on health
and healing for those interested in health subjects.

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

First-Term Course

The charters underlying the world order of
Baha'u'llah and how they relate to you and the Five
Year Plan

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

A course in the series on the writings of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-
Baha

Lead Faculty: [Brent Poirier](#)

Duration of course: Seven
weeks (March 10 - April 27,
2018)



In **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." Then we will discuss 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. Finally, we will consider how to better relate
these three Charters to the practices of the Ruhi Institute
courses and to our individual roles in the current Plan.

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

Learning How to Respond to Global Challenges: Four Women Share Their Stories

Studying three letters by Shoghi Effendi gave four women a new historical perspective on their part in the unfolding of a world civilization, allayed fears about world unrest, and set them on paths to discussing global challenges with friends.

[READ>>](#)

Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly: Purchase Mindfully--Do I Really Need It? Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer

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

During the Baha'i month of fasting (March 2-20 in 2018), read about tips for reducing the amount of stuff we accumulate, and learn to take only what we need. [READ>>](#)



The Universal House of Justice, Department of the Secretariat, Addresses Climate Change--The Wilmette Institute Offers a Climate Change Course

See what guidance from Haifa says about climate change and Baha'i activities, and learn what you can learn from an online course called Climate Change. [READ>>](#)

Letter to the Editor: A Plastic-Free Community

About the February tip of avoiding plastics, Peter Haug sent a [link to an article about Aberporth, Wales, the first village in the U.K. to go plastic free](#) (coffee cups, biodegradable; milk in glass bottles; toothbrushes, bamboo) to remove microplastics from their environment.

First-Term Course

Understanding how the arts contribute to the diversity, health, and well-being of Baha'i life

The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

One in a series on arts and literature

Lead Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

Faculty: [Peggy Caton](#), [Jalaliyih Quinn](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 15 - April 25, 2018)

In **The Baha'i Faith and the Arts**

we will explore the purpose of the arts from a Baha'i perspective. Among other topics, we will discuss how art and religion have harmonized and conflicted in the past; how the Baha'i dispensation will be similar to and different from the past; the artist as a person with an important gift to share with the world; and how the Baha'i writings encourage artists. We will also consider how to reframe imagination, creativity, and risk-taking within a Baha'i context; how to prioritize the positive aspect of creativity to enhance our lives, our communities, the Baha'i Faith, and the future; and how to develop a serviceable language about the arts that enables us to integrate the arts more fully into Feasts, Holy Days (particularly the 2019 bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab), core activities, commemorations, and so on and to include more people in art making and appreciation of the arts.



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

First-Term Course

Study 'Abdu'l-Baha's answers to questions put to Him over lunch in Acre

Some Answered Questions

Another course in the series exploring the writings and talks of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (March 25 - May 19, 2018)

The Netherlands Justice Conference 2018: "Shining a Light of Illumination in Turbulent and Divided Times,"
March 30-April 2

Take a spring break, and go to a lovely conference center set in a forest in The Netherlands for talks and discussions on justice. The conference is in English and is sure to help you with meaningful conversations. [READ>>](#)



July International Environment Forum Conference Supporting the UN High Level Political Forum

With the encouragement and collaboration of the Baha'i International Community UN Office, the IEF is organizing its next International Conference (July 9-18, 2018) to support the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The IEF asks four questions and invites those interested to contact the IEF Secretariat at ief@iefworld.org.

[Towards a Just Economic Order: Conceptual Foundations and Moral Prerequisites](#)

The Baha'i International Community has released a new 4 1/2-page statement (for the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development) on the principles needed for eliminating poverty and building the world anew.

News

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

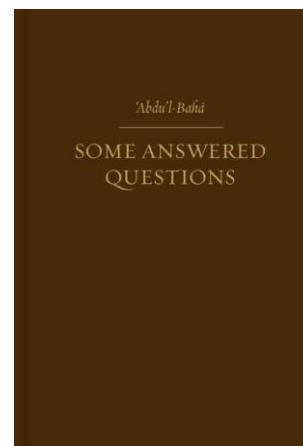
The Association for Baha'i Studies has announced the availability of the [Winter 2017 issue of The Journal of Baha'i Studies](#). Articles cover themes in the Kitab-i-Aqdas, creativity, and depression. You can read the journal for free online or order a printed copy.

Talks, Podcasts, and Events by Other Organizations

[ethical business for a better future](#) / Podcast

Episode 11: "The Ethical Challenge of an

Some Answered Questions contains answers, approved by 'Abdu'l-Baha, to questions Laura Clifford Barney asked Him in Persian over lunch in Acre between 1904 and 1906. It is an important book for understanding a wide range of basic Baha'i teachings, including explanations about the spiritual and material evolution of humankind under the guidance of the Manifestations of God, certain Christian topics, and such issues as good and evil, suffering, and the criteria for comprehension. Barney translated the talks into English for publication in 1908. A newly revised translation brings 'Abdu'l-Baha's authoritative interpretations to an English-speaking audience with new clarity and precision.



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

Second-Term Course
Understanding climate change for your good and the worldwide common good

[Climate Change](#)

A course in a series on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Christine Muller](#)
Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#), [Laurent Mesbah](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 1 - May 26, 2018)

The Universal House of Justice affirms, in a November 29, 2017, letter, that climate change is a vital issue "with profound implications for the common good," upholds the importance of science, and expresses its hope that Baha'is will "continually grow in their capacity to make a distinctive and effective contribution to addressing the multitudinous problems afflicting society and the planet, including those associated with climate change." This course on **Climate Change** will provide a basic understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, discuss its ethical challenges, and relate them to the spiritual teachings of the world's religions, particularly those of the Baha'i Faith. It will help you consider changes in your lifestyle to bring greater coherence to your life and show you how to incorporate environmental and social responsibility in Baha'i core activities and community gatherings. It will also assist you to elevate public discourse above partisan politics by introducing spiritual



Inclusive Global Governance for Business" with Doug Henck, Roxanne Stafford, Augusto Lopez-Claros (19:30)

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Mar. 6, 2018, 4 p.m.

Dr. Audra Buck-Coleman
"More Than a Pretty Picture: The Potential for Art and Design to Create Positive Social Change"
McKeldin Library, Special Events Room, 6th floor, University of Maryland

[Faith Climate Action Week](#) / Apr. 14-22, 2018

"Charged with Faith: Leading the Way to a Clean Energy Future"
Interfaith Power & Light

Conferences and Colloquia

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Mar. 28, 2018, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

"The Ethical Foundations of Human Rights Conference"
Dr. Alison Brysk
"Why Rights Are Right: The Politics of Persuasion"
Dr. Raimond Galta
"Human Rights and the Frail Idea of a Common Humanity"
Dr. Samuel J. Kerstein
"Treating Others Merely as a Means"
Dr. Karol Soltan
"Looking for a Deeper Meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights"
Atrium, Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland
Registration required.

[The Netherlands Justice Conference 2018](#) / Mar. 30-Apr. 2, 2018

"Shining a Light of Illumination in Turbulent and Divided Times"
De Poort Conference Centre, The Netherlands

[Registration](#) & [Travel and Venue Information](#)

[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.

responses to the climate crisis. The course, which is open to people of all, or no, religious backgrounds, includes many optional resources for those who wish to delve more deeply into climate-change issues.

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

Second-Term Course: NEW TITLE
An examination of Native American teachings and values, cultural perspectives, and the Baha'i Faith

[Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred](#)

Another in a series on world religions

Faculty: [Richard Hainsworth](#), [Ceylan Isgor](#), [Kevin Locke](#), [Brian O'Flanagan](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (April 15 - June 9, 2018)

In **Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred** (formerly titled **Native American Religion and Spirituality**), we will examine the common threads found in indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices and the universal message of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how Native American teachings and values reflect some of the more salient teachings and principles of the Baha'i revelation and in so doing will also inquire into how culture shapes our perceptions of reality and seek to gain insights into our inherent cultural biases. We will cover a range of topics: the historic culture clash between indigenous peoples and settlers; the use of language and symbolism in intercultural communication; the impacts of colonization and Christianity in the colonization process; and the effect both have had on native religion and spirituality and the implications for the spread of Baha'u'llah's message in indigenous communities. In our readings, discussions, and consultations, we will strive for expansive thinking and will also revisit 'Abdu'l-Baha's statement about the importance of the original inhabitants of North America and the Lakota prophecy about the rise of the Seventh Generation, reframing these statements in the context of the current Five Year Plan (2016-21).



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

Second-Term Course
Guidance for winning the goals of any international plan and preparing for citizenship in the new World Order

[The Advent of Divine](#)

[`Irfan Colloquium](#) / May 24-28, 2018
English and Persian
Bosch Bahá'í School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / May 25-27, 2018
Memorials of the Faithful Conference
"Exploring the Lives of the Hands of the Cause of God General Shua'u'llah 'Ala'i and William Sears"
Eloy, AZ, 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

[International Environment Forum Conference Supporting the UN High Level Political Forum](#) / July 9-18, 2018

Contact IEF Secretariat for information.
New York City, NY, USA

[`Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 19-22, 2018
German only
Tambach Seminary Center, Tambach, Germany

[Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference](#) / Aug. 9-12, 2018
Breakout Sessions proposals deadline:
Mar. 15, 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, Reconciliation, and Change"
Program proposals due March 1, 2018
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[American Academy of Religion](#) / Nov. 17-20, 2018
Denver, CO, USA

[Justice: Guidance for Success in Teaching](#)

A course exploring the writings of Shoghi Effendi

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (April 25 - June 12, 2018)

Shoghi Effendi wrote his seminal book-length letter, published as *The Advent of Divine Justice*, 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 for individuals, institutions, and communities; and to his assurances of America's "unspeakably glorious destiny." In its letter of January 31, 2018, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

commended the study of this letter to every believer, "especially the sections describing the spiritual prerequisites for successful teaching." In this course we will particularly focus on the "double crusade" Baha'is must conduct (purifying their inner lives and responding to the evils, such as materialism, "entrenched" in their country) and on reaching out to American Indians, African Americans, and immigrant groups--especially whole families. *Please note that this is not a course on the most challenging issue.*



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

Second-Term Course
Learn more about the Hebrew Bible to foster informed conversations

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

One in a series of courses on religion

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)
Faculty: [JoAnn Borovicka](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 1 - June 18, 2018)

**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

SECOND TERM (APRIL - JUNE 2018)

[One Common Faith](#)
June 1 - July 19, 2018

[Conscious Parenting of
3 and 4 Year Olds](#)
June 4 - July 8

The Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) is a collection of writings sacred to Jews and Christians. It includes historical accounts, prophetic utterances, sacred stories, poetry, hymns, and a variety of other material. In **Exploring the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament)** we will survey the Hebrew Bible's major books including selections from the Pentateuch (Torah), the Prophets, the Psalms and other writings in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. We will also compare the Hebrew Bible with Baha'i scripture, paying particular attention to passages in the Hebrew Bible that have been "unsealed" (authoritatively interpreted) by the Baha'i revelation. The aim of studying the Hebrew Bible in the light of the Baha'i writings is to deepen one's faith and to provide tools for sharing the Baha'i revelation with others.



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

Second-Term Course
Learn how to emulate the Dawnbreakers by studying their history and exploits

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

Another in a series of course on Baha'i history and texts

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 5 - June 22, 2018)

In **The Bab and the Babi Faith, 1844-63: Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers**, we will study the earliest period of the history of the Babi and Baha'i Faiths--including the life and teachings of the Bab and the lives and exploits of His followers, the Dawnbreakers of the Heroic Age--and will provide opportunities for meditating on the spiritual qualities needed for those who 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 Chihriq, and the Conference of Badasht; upheavals in the Babi communities in Mazandaran, Nayriz, and Zanjan; the martyrdom of the Bab in 1850; developments after the 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 in Tehran; the martyrdom of Tahiri; the

NEW TITLE: [Relating Baha'i Principles to Public Life \(without Being Political\)](#)
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

August - December 2018 Course Schedule

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

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

NEW COURSE: 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

NEW COURSE: Consulting as a Couple

executions of many of the Bab's disciples and the fate of those who persecuted the Bab and His followers; and a summation of the life of the Bab and His followers, the Dawnbreakers. Shoghi Effendi edited and translated *The Dawn-Breakers* as a means of encouraging Baha'is to emulate the bravery, self-sacrifice, and dedication of the Babis.

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

Second-Term Course NEW COURSE

Find out how to help your children take a spiritual approach to online and media time

[Helping Children Navigate Media and Screen Time](#)

One in a series of courses for parents

Lead Faculty: [Justine Finn](#)
Faculty: [Chelsea Lee Smith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 7 - June 10, 2018)

Do you want more tools to help your child navigate society's intense media environment? In today's world, socializing, learning, personal expression, and dating often occur in media, texts and social apps, raising new challenges and opportunities for children and teens. **Helping Children**

Navigate Media and Screen Time is aimed at parents, caretakers, and educators of children ages 8 to 18 years old. It will help you learn how to address the common media-related issues facing your children and guide them to apply spiritual principles to their time online and with media.



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

Second-Term Course Study Baha'u'llah's elaborations on His teaching after His Kitab-i-Aqdas

[Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas](#)

A course in a series on exploring Baha'u'llah's revelation

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Understanding and Decisions
September 17 - October 8, 2018

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

Exploring 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

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

NEW COURSE: 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

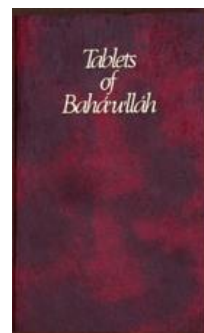
The Promise of World Peace
December 5 - January 23, 2019

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

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 10 - August 1, 2018)

After revealing the Kitab-i-Aqdas in 1873-74, Baha'u'llah penned a series of tablets that include the Lawh-i-Aqdas, the Book of the Covenant, and the Tablet of Carmel. These tablets elaborate on Baha'u'llah's laws, explore further the nature of the mystical life, describe basic theological teachings, and expound the principles necessary for transforming human society. The bulk of these weighty epistles were published in 1978 in *Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas*. In this course we will read and study these tablets and discuss their relationship to other works by Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha. All readings will be provided via the web; no books need to be purchased.



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

Second-Term Course

Explore Islam, and learn how to talk about it with friends and neighbors

Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

Another in a series on world religions

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Pschaida](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 15 - July 2, 2018)

In **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue** we will begin with a survey of the life of Muhammad, a Manifestation of God, and a review of the origins, development, and content of the Qur'an, including the teachings and practices of Islam. We will then examine the Sunni/Shiite split over issues of succession and authority and discuss Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, and the Sufi poetic tradition. Finally, we will turn to contemporary Islam and to Islam and other religions, including the Baha'i Faith. With ongoing anti-Islamic sentiment throughout the world, there is no better time to improve our understanding of one of the world's most important and influential religions and to prepare for discussing it with Christian and Muslim friends and neighbors.



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

Anytime Courses

An Anytime Course. 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](#)

An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

[Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)

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](#)

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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