

April 2018 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars, Conferences, Learners in Action

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

National Assembly Encourages Participation in Faith Climate Action Week in April

Interfaith Power and Light (IPF) is once again holding its Faith Climate Action Week, this year on April 14-24. The [National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, in its March 14, 2017, letter](#), encourages Baha'is to join other faith communities in observing this special week and to study the [Universal House of Justice's March 1, 2017, letter on the path to global economic well-being](#) and its [November 29, 2017, letter on climate change](#). The National Assembly also suggests looking on the [IPL website at the kit for implementing participation in Faith Climate Action Week](#) and considering signing up for the [Wilmette Institute's course on Climate Change](#).

Youth--Rising Generations

"Rising Generations: Weaving a New

Courses for Next Two Months

April - May 2018

Anytime Courses Appear at the End of the List of Courses

See the new one: **Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?**

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)

[Tapestry of Community Life](#)--A New Baha'i International Community Statement

The new BIC statement calls upon young people to play a "significant role" in transforming society by showing the oneness of humanity and using their curiosity and adaptability to change the foundations of community life as they abandon materialism, adopt humility in a lifelong learning process, and foster friendship, trust, and love "from which the seeds of a prosperous world civilization can bloom." The statement includes four short videos in which youth talk about the rising generation, youth and leadership, meaningful work and service, and a culture of friendship, any one of which could be used to start a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of youth.

[The Story of Stuff](#)--A Baha'i-Inspired Program for Youth


Check out a new



Baha'i-inspired, six-unit program for youth taking on the Story of Stuff from a Baha'i point of view. Tackling the evils of materialism head on, the units guide youth through stewardship of the earth, the impacts of materialism on people and the planet, and the downsides of production, advertisements, and the disposal of stuff. It ends with time for planning a service project. Instructions make it easy for facilitators. [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute News

Thinking about Relationships and Marriage? Check Out a New Anytime Course

 The course of relationships and commitments is not something that can be scheduled. Hence Anytime 365 Courses. The newest one is for the beginning of the process--**Thinking about Relationships and Marriage?** Check it out. [READ>>](#)

[Video for April Courses That Will Put a Spring in Your Spiritual Step](#)

Click on the link in the title above for a video introduction to the courses being offered in April by the Wilmette Institute, including a new Anytime Course

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 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 Isqor](#), [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



(24/7/365) on relationships and marriage.

Have You Never Taken a Wilmette Institute Course? Read On for a Surprise

If you have never taken a Wilmette Institute course, here is the surprise. Email us at learn@wilmetteinstitute.org with your name, email address, postal address, AND the name of the course you want to take. We will give you the course for free. [Check out our list of 2018 courses](#) from which you can choose.

You Have Picked Out a Course . . . But You Need Help

You have found just the online course for you. But your budget is tight. Check out the [Wilmette Institute's new videos about how we can help you with tuition](#). Our courses do not exclude anyone. Together, let's invest in learning for a lifetime.

Two Web Talks for April: America in the Baha'i Writings and Economic Life

Diverse Universal House of Justice letters figure in the April Web Talks. One is on the station of America in the Baha'i writings in light of the doctrines of Discovery and Manifest Destiny and a Universal House of Justice letter on social action and public discourse. The other is about economic life in the context of the House of Justice's March 1, 2017, letter. [READ>>](#)



Wilmette Institute Web Talks for March - April

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

"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

"Seven Waves of Looking at Religion"

communication; the impact of the colonization process and particularly Christianity in it; 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 Justice: Guidance for Success in Teaching

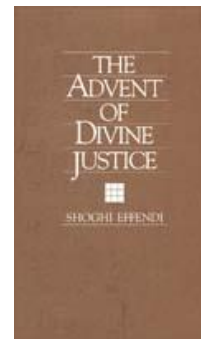
A course exploring the writings of Shoghi Effendi

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

May 6, 2018
Ben Schewel

Learners in Action

Baha'i Theology Course Results in Exploration of Catholic Document "Dei Verbum"



Marco Oliveira, a Portuguese Baha'i with many Catholic relatives, compares and contrasts Baha'i and Catholic views on revelation in an article and a PowerPoint. [READ>>](#)

Learning How to Participate in Interfaith Dialogue and Then Jumping Right In



Sheila Idoine talks candidly about what she learned about interfaith dialogue and learning from and sharing with others of faith, and transferring her learning to other

conversations. [READ>>](#)

A Learner's How-To List for Engaging in Interfaith Dialogue

Lisa Kelly prepared a very useful and thoughtful how-to list of do's and don't's for stepping into the arena of interfaith dialogue.

[READ>>](#)



Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly: Why Eat Organic? Make Your Life a Beautiful Prayer

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

Learn this month about why organic food is good for you and good for the environment and how much damage non-organic food does to just about everything. You can also access links to previous time



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)

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](#) [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



[READ >>](#)

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

With the encouragement and collaboration of the Bahá'í 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.

News

Design for National Baha'i House of Worship in Papua New Guinea Unveiled

The breathtaking [design for the National House of Worship in Papua New Guinea was unveiled](#) on Naw-Ruz in Port Moresby with native dances and song, a devotional program, and presentations on the temple's concept, which based on the art of weaving.



Countries around the World Design Commemorative Baha'i Stamps

Five countries around the world issued [stamps commemorating the bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah](#), in a tradition stretching back at least to the 1940s.



IEF'S Monthly Newsletter Now Available

[Leaves](#), the monthly newsletter of the International Environment Forum, is now available. It is full of information about climate change and other environmental issues and imminent and future IEF activities.

Talks, Podcasts, and Events

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 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 is 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 teachings

by Other Organizations

[ethical business for a better future](#) / Podcast
Episode 12: The Unusual Story of a Values Based French Patisserie . . . in New Delhi (19.25)
Episode 13: Rethinking Education (18:00)

[International Golden Rule Day](#) / Apr. 5, 2018
The Interfaith Peace Project: Creating Peace Through Interfaith Understanding

[Faith Climate Action Week](#) / Apr. 14-22, 2018
"Charged with Faith: Leading the Way to a Clean Energy Future"
Interfaith Power & Light

[The Bahá'í Chair for World Peace](#) / Apr. 16, 2018
"Changing the World, One Wall at a Time: A Film Screening"
Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Conferences and Colloquia

[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 Baha'i 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 Shu`a'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

after His Kitab-i-Aqdas

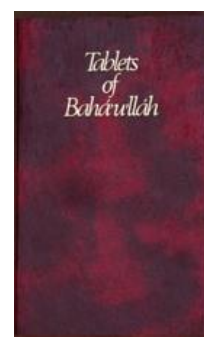
Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas

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

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

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



[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
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"
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature / Nov. 17-20, 2018
Denver, CO, USA

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](#)

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](#) [Course Financial Aid](#)

Anytime Courses

<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/as-you-need-it-courses/>

<https://youtu.be/gkdoakeqWz4>



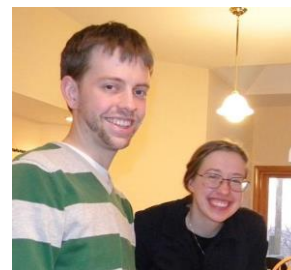
An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

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

For singles not yet in a relationship and couples in the early stages of a relationship. Participants will be assigned a faculty-mentor.

[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](#)



An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

[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](#)

[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](#)

[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

[Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue](#)
June 7 - August 9, 2018

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)

[Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)
July 1 - August 19, 2018

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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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.

Third Term (July-August)

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: 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

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

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www.bahai.us

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.](#)