

June 2018 eNewsletter

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



News, Webinars,
Conferences,
Learners in Action

Courses for Next Two
Months

June - July 2018

**The Universal House of
Justice**

Anytime Courses Appear at the End of the List of
Courses

How to Assess the Credibility of Some Websites on the Faith

The Universal House of Justice, through its Department of the Secretariat, has shared with the friends, [guidelines for assessing "the credibility of some websites"](#): spiritual qualities of "personal conduct," "firm reliance on the Covenant combined with a sound grasp of the Baha'i teachings," and "thoughtful reflection."



**Second- and Third-Term
Courses:
June - July**

The Baha'i Community's Perspective on Religious Prejudice and Actions Addressing It

In case you missed the December letter from the Universal House of Justice, through its Department of the Secretariat, about ["the Baha'i community's perspective on religious prejudice"](#) and what action it is taking to address this issue in the world," you will want to familiarize yourself with it.

Wilmette Institute News

Three June Web Talks: Adventures in Scientific Principles, Interreligious Dialogue, and Materialism and Discontent



Web Talks for June examine three topics that are sure to help you with your meaningful conversations: using scientific principles to understand the growth of the Faith,

interreligious dialogue, and materialism. In the talk on interreligious dialogue, a Baha'i will interview a Catholic scholar who has devoted his life to interfaith discussions.

[READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute's Third-Term Courses--July and August 2018

The Wilmette Institute announces courses for its third-term (July and August) courses, one each for the departments of Religion, Baha'i Texts, and Marriage and Family and two for Social Transformation.

[READ>>](#)

Video Introductions to the Six June Online Courses

Colorful and informative videos introduce Wilmette Institute courses: [One Common Faith](#) has its own video. [Conscious Parenting and Baha'u'llah's Revelation](#) are paired. And a third video contains a triad of courses: [Relating the Baha'i Teaching to Public Life, Economics and Community Building, and Racism in America](#). Take a listen!

New Aids to Help Learners Navigate Moodle

The Wilmette Institute has produced three **First-Timer's Guide** videos to help learners log in to their courses, set up a course profile, and post in the courses' Forums. Those, plus a Like button in the Forums, should make learning easier for students. [READ>>](#)

Tell Us What Relationship and Marriage Courses You Would Like to Take in 2019: Let Us Hear from You by June 15

The Relationship and Marriage Department faculty invites your input on what courses it should offer during 2019. [Download a page with some ideas](#) and space for your

Learn how to contribute to public discourse about religion

One Common Faith

A course on a book commissioned by the Universal House of Justice

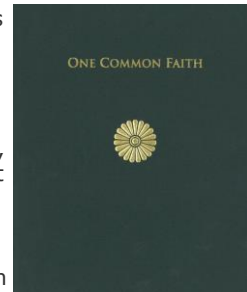
Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Dan Wheatley](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 1 - July 19, 2018)

Study of **One Common Faith** will help us to teach, to engage in interfaith dialogue, and to contribute to public discourse.

Commissioned by the Universal House of Justice, this key document analyzes the state of the world, the rise of materialism, and the failure of the interfaith movement and religious leaders to embrace the essential oneness of religion. It also sets out the principles--unity and progressive revelation--that make the Baha'i approach effective in reforming civilization. We will examine the document's guidance about the efforts the Baha'i community must make to become an effective agent of change and lead the world to one common faith. This course will give us the opportunity to study **One Common Faith** in depth and to make practical use of what it says in our own lives and in our Baha'i communities.



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

NEW COURSE

Guidance about nurturing spiritual qualities in young children

Conscious Parenting of Children under Five Years Old

Another course in a series on parenting and family life

Lead Faculty: [Chelsea Lee Smith](#)

Duration of course: Five weeks (June 4 - July 8)

Conscious Parenting of Children under Five Years Old invites participants to learn positive parenting practices with the objective of nurturing spirituality in children under five years old. Topics in the course include analyzing the



own suggestions. Then send your response to Department Chair [Susanne Alexander](#) by June 15. Thank you for your help.

Baha'i Student Gives Sermon as She Graduates with a Degree in Chaplaincy from the United Theological Seminary



Emily Youngdahl Wright, possibly the first Baha'i in the United States to become a professional chaplain, shared thoughts about her life choice in a sermon before she graduated from United Theological Seminary.

[READ>>](#)

Benjamin Schewel and a New Way to Think about Religion: A Web Talk Not to Miss

Robert Stockman's overview of Dr. Benjamin Schewel's Web Talk "Seven Ways of Looking at Religion" provides an excellent introduction to an innovative approach to understanding religion and grist for discussions about an important topic. [READ>>](#)



Letter to the Editor: Climate Change Now a Part of Local Activities



Three years later, a learner who took the Climate Change course in 2015, reports on how it has affected her local community and outreach in High Point, North Carolina, USA. [READ>>](#)

Letter to the Editor: How Much I Have Learned from the Wilmette Institute

A great-grandmother talks about how much she has learned from Wilmette Institute courses in the five courses she has taken during the past year. [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Web Talks for June - July

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

"Scientific Principles at Work in the

roles and responsibilities of parents according to a Baha'i perspective, strengthening the ability of parents to nurture spiritual qualities in young children, creating a positive relationship between parents and children even in the face of challenging behaviors, and building family unity through engaging in spiritual practices and service together.

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

Learn how to up your game in discussing racism and racial prejudice

[Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue](#)

A course in the department of social transformation

Faculty: [Niki Daniels](#), [Gwendolyn Etter-Lewis](#), [Guy Emerson Mount](#)

Duration of course: Nine weeks (June 7 - August 9, 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 conversations 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 TITLE

Find new ways to join discourses on governance

[Relating Baha'i Principles to Public Life \(Without Being Political\)](#)

Another course in the department of social transformation

Lead Faculty: [Brian Aull](#)

[Worldwide Advancement of the Baha'i Faith"](#)

June 3, 2018
Jena Khodadad

["Interreligious Dialogue: Myths and Reality"](#)

June 9, 2018 (note: Saturday, not Sunday, 10 a.m. EDT)
Professor Leonard Swidler, interviewed by Mikhail Sergeev

["Materialism and Discontent: Baha'i Perspectives"](#)

June 17, 2018
Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian

["Peace for Our Planet: A New Approach"](#)

Sunday Jul. 1, 2018
Roya Akhavan

["Biotechnology, Benefits and Perils: The Need for Spiritual Perspective in Achieving Harmony of Science and Religion"](#)

Sunday July 15, 2018
Jena Khodadad

Learners in Action

"Of Course, It Will Not End": Learnings from Health Care and Social Action Course

Rolando Maddela, a Filipino with training and experience in public health and nutrition, shares how **Health Care and Social Action** is enriching his presentations and how it has increased his understanding of the need for a Baha'i perspective in the field. [READ>>](#)



Two Responses to New Course-- Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue

*Responses to the Wilmette Institute's new course **Racism in America**, launched in February 2018, has generated thoughtful and eye-opening responses. In the two articles below, we share responses from two learners. By popular demand, the course repeats, starting on June 7.*

An Aussie Confronts Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 10 - July 28, 2018)

The Universal House of Justice has commented on the breakdown of trust and collaboration between the individual and institutions of governance because of the corrupt practices of partisan politics. The "broken" state of American democracy is the subject of numerous books and articles. Baha'is can contribute to this discussion because consultation and the Baha'i electoral process reflect a living model of democratic life. In **Relating the Baha'i Teachings to Public Life (Without Being Political)**, we will explore how Baha'is might contribute to discourses on governance in a way that speaks the language of scholars, activists, and other people of good will working for civic renewal in the United States.



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

Survey Baha'u'llah's writings to increase your understanding of the vastness of His revelation

[Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey](#)

A course on Baha'i scriptural texts

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)
Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 15 - August 2, 2018)

Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey provides a systematic introduction to twenty of Baha'u'llah's most important works, ranging from The Hidden Words to Epistle to the Son of the Wolf. We will study themes and topics from these works and related tablets that Baha'u'llah progressively revealed during His ministry. The course is designed for those seeking basic information about Baha'u'llah's writings and for new or veteran Baha'is seeking deeper understanding of the ocean of Baha'u'llah's revelation. We will not read the works in their entirety but, rather, sample representative passages.



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

NEW COURSE
Study the many connections between community building and economics

[Economics and Community](#)



An Australian Baha'i, recently relocated to the United States to work for Baha'iTeachings.org, is finding prejudice in her new country quite different from that in Australia but is

committed to a variety of actions to help combat this evil. [READ>>](#)

"Practical Steps toward Racial Harmony": A Way to Educate Baha'is about Racism

Katharine Key is working on a musical fireside as a way to educate white and Persian Baha'is about racism. She shares her half-finished project with us. [READ>>](#)

Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly--Use Energy-Efficient Appliances: Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer

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

Are you thinking about buying a new refrigerator, washing machine, dryer, or another electrical appliance? If so, you will want to read about energy-efficient appliances and how much they can save you. [READ>>](#)



Talks, Podcasts, and Events by Other Organizations

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

Podcast

Episode 16 - The difficult but worthwhile path towards new meaningful careers

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Annual Lecture 2018](#) / September 20, 2018

"Deconstructing Race/Reconstructing Difference: Beyond the U.S. Paradigm"

Professor Jabari Mahiri
Registration necessary.

University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA

Building

Another course in the department of social transformation

Lead Faculty: [Jean Parker](#)

Faculty: [Hooshmand Badee](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 20 - August 8, 2018)

Economic and Community Building is designed to prepare learners to take action in community building and economic development. We will analyze the world's economic conditions through an in-depth study of the Baha'i writings and recent letters from Baha'i institutions, as well as secular sources, and plan strategies for implementing their guidance to develop economic activities with moral and spiritual foundations. Topics include the economic significance of justice, economic well-being and prosperity, the impact of the oneness of humanity on economic life and on village and community economics, and applying the learnings from the course.



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

Conferences and Colloquia

['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

Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta, GA, USA

['Irfan Colloquium](#)

/ October 4-7, 2018
Persian and English
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Conference](#) /
October 17, 2018

"The Future of Humanity: The Challenge of
Global Peace and Security"
Schedule and speakers forthcoming.
University of Maryland, College Park,
Maryland, 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

Registration (super-saver) now open.
Denver, CO, USA

**WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS,
SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND
OTHER LINKS**

Study Buddhism to enhance your ability to carry on
meaningful conversations

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue

One in a series on an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Faculty: [Stephen Boyanton](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 1 - August 19, 2018)

In **Buddhism for Deepening and
Dialogue** we will survey the life of the
Buddha, His core teachings, and practices
of the Buddhist tradition, as well as the
historical development and dissemination
of Buddhism over Asia and, much later,
to the West. Throughout the course we
will examine similarities and differences
between Buddhist and Baha'i teachings,
including the emphasis both place on
personal transformation. The course will
deepen your understanding of an
important religion that began in India and
will prepare you for discussing spiritual
concepts and practices with Buddhist friends, colleagues, and
neighbors.



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

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](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Email for Information](#)

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](#)
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[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)
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[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Baha'i World News Service](#)
[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

THIRD TERM (JULY - AUGUST 2018)

[Building a World Federation: An Idea Whose Time Has Come](#)
August 15 - October 3, 2018

[The Tabernacle of Unity](#)
August 20 - October 8, 2018

NEW COURSE

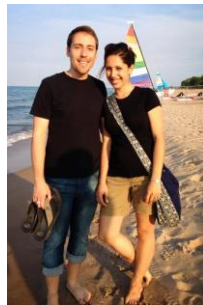
Learn how to budget time for family and for community

Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple

Another in a series on marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)
Faculty: [Fiona McDonald](#), [Fariba Vahdat](#)

Duration of course: Three weeks (July 8 - July 30, 2018)



You want to stay connected with each other and your families, and you also want to be of service to your neighbors and community. **Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple** will help you understand the principles that relate to these choices and how to apply them in practical ways. This course is deliberately *very short* for those who are time challenged!

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

Anytime Courses: Work At Your Own Pace



[Video on Anytime Relationship Courses](#)

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.

[The Destiny of America](#)
August 25 - October 13, 2018

Fourth Term (September - December)

[Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)
September 1 - October 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Fostering a Baha'i Identity in Children](#)
September 3 - October 21, 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](#)
September 17 - October 8, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Sharing the Twin Birthday with Children](#)
September 17 - October 28, 2018

[Writing about the Writings: The Art and Craft of the Personal Reflection Piece](#)
September 25 - November 13, 2018

October - December 2018 Course Schedule

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

Fourth Term (October - December 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

NEW COURSE: Building Intercultural

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.

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 fiance 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](#)

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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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

NEW COURSE: Economic Justice and the
Baha'i World Order
November 5 - December 24, 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.](#)

Editors
Betty J. Fisher
Robert H. Stockman

Production
Robert H. Stockman
Niki Daniels

Contributors
Doris Bogardus
Sahba Clara Delshad
Katharine Key
Rolando Maddela
Winnie Merritt
Christine Muller
Emily Youngdahl Wright

Wilmette Institute, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60201-
2886 USA

Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388) - Fax:
1.847.733.3563

Email: learn@wilmetteinstitute.org

Web: <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>

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

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

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