



The monthly electronic Newsletter provides news of the Wilmette Institute, the Web Talk schedule, and upcoming courses

Wilmette Institute News

Faculty Bios



[The Bios of Our Faculty Get a Facelift](#)

The Wilmette Institute has recently published updated faculty bios for some forty-five individuals (about half the total cohort). Its diverse faculty includes young scholars, seasoned professionals, academics, and self-

trained experts. The new bios move the Institute toward its goal of being a professional educational institution. Take a look.

[Course Software is Upgraded](#)

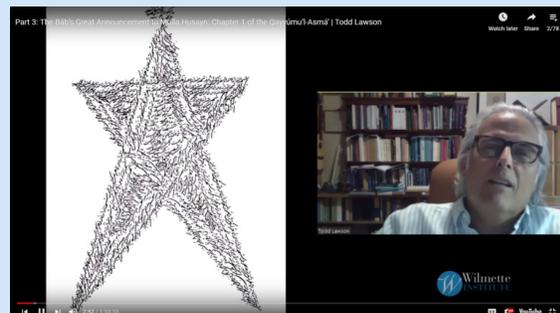
Our Moodle software upgrade now allows you to log in using your Facebook or Google accounts and provides new features, like private messaging and a word count for your postings.

[Advice from Our Students About Managing Your Time](#)

A survey of our students provides four tips for success in taking our courses (hint: to do lists and adequate sleep help!)

[Web Talks and a Course on the Qayyumu'l-Asma Provided Profound Insights](#)

Dr. Todd Lawson gave a series of three profound webinars in July and August about the Qayyumu'l-Asma, the Bab's first major work, and led discussions about them in a Wilmette Institute course with 40 students. Many were fascinated by the insights and a whole new approach to appreciating the Prophet-Herald of the Baha'i Faith.



Student News

[Kitab-i-Iqan Course Generates a Huge Course Project and Deepening](#)

Rick Schneider's lifelong quest to understand the Kitab-i-Iqan was moved forward significantly by a Wilmette Institute course on the book.



[Life of the Bab course was a Lifeline for an Isolated Believer](#)

Dorinda Bogartus learned about the connection of the Bab's teachings with those of Muhammad and Baha'u'llah, and gained a learning community as well.

Tip for Sustainable Living



[Save and Reuse Your Plastic Bags](#)

Plastic bags are very polluting, they can kill wildlife that mistakes them for food, they disintegrate into tiny particles and end up staying in the environment, and get snagged in recycling machinery. But you can reuse each one many times.

[September Web Talks](#)

Sunday, September 8, 2019

New Time: 4:00 pm Eastern

Anne Pearson

["Sacred Cows, Krishna, and the Baha'i Faith: Decoding Hinduism"](#)



Sunday, September 15, 2019, 2 pm Eastern
(8 pm in Western Europe)

Armin Eschraghi

["The Bab's Tablet about the Special Prophethood of Muhammad"](#)

[September-October Online Courses](#)

[Deep Discount for First Time Students!](#)
Pay just \$10 for your first course

[Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)

September 5 to December 1, 2019



DESIGNED FOR COLLEGE CREDIT.

Poverty and suffering of people at home and abroad, concern about the future of our children, and worry about the destruction of the environment on which their lives depend: these are the challenges of sustainable development, which will require a fundamental

transformation in the economic, social, and environmental actions of our lives and society. This course will explore the profound implications of sustainability for our higher human purpose, as explained in the Baha'i teachings, and the scientific and spiritual principles that can ensure the future prosperity of humankind. Study of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development goals is included.

Hinduism for Deepening and Dialog

September 10 to October 28, 2019

An overview of Hinduism, including the problem of defining what it is; a review of its history and sources of authority; central Hindu concepts (the nature of the divine, the self, and the soul; Krishna and the "avatar" doctrine; concepts of karma and rebirth); ethics, laws, and social structures; and Hindu practices (yoga, meditation, worship, festivals, diet) and their expression in visual and performing arts. A comparison with Baha'i views will be threaded throughout. Explore Hinduism in the modern world and the growth of the Baha'i Faith in South Asia. Study Hinduism for two purposes: deepening in the basics of Hinduism as a divinely ordained religion and its relationship to the Baha'i Faith, and preparing for dialogue and service with adherents of Hinduism.



The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

September 15 to December 7, 2019

DESIGNED FOR COLLEGE CREDIT. A thorough and systematic study of the Baha'i religion. Review the vastness of the Baha'i Faith's authoritative texts (21 million words); examine the fundamental concept of unity and its

implications for creating community, reforming the world, and re-conceptualizing such subjects as leadership, politics, and conflict; study the nature of God, revelation, manifestation, humanity, creation, religion, and the Baha'i Faith's relationship to other faiths; explore the nature and spiritual development of human beings and the role of marriage and family life; review the Baha'i approach to reorganizing the social life and civilization of the human species; study the basics of Baha'i history.

Celebrating the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab with

Children

September 16 to October 20, 2019

This course is designed to help parents, teachers, and other adults share the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab with children so that they will understand the significance and feel the spirit of this very special Holy Day. Course materials include stories, printable activities, craft ideas, and songs. Participants will receive inspiration and practical resources to celebrate this special occasion in a fun and uplifting way with children at home and in the community.



Writing about the Writings: The Art and Craft of the Personal Reflection Piece

September 20 to November 7, 2019

The purpose of the course is to empower readers of Baha'i scripture to share their insights into the Baha'i writings in the context of the personal reflection piece, a form of commentary that does not employ the conventional apparatus of scholarship, such as research, critical analysis, and familiarity with other commentary on the same texts but, rather, simply embodies the individual reader's thoughtful response to a given passage, tablet, or longer work by the Baha'u'llah, the Bab, or `Abdu'l-Baha. You will learn the art and craft of writing such a personal reflection piece by receiving instruction from faculty as well as feedback from fellow students.

An Excellent and Priceless Heritage: The Three Covenants of the Baha'i Faith

September 25 to November 19, 2019

This course will be an exploration of the three successive covenants in this Dispensation: the Covenant of the Bab and what Shoghi Effendi termed "the twin Covenants of Baha'u'llah and of 'Abdu'l-Baha." It will focus on how these twin Covenants establish the Universal House of Justice as Head of the Faith, grant it broad authority, and repeatedly and emphatically promise it will receive unfailing divine guidance. The course seeks to enhance the participants' confidence in the guidance the Universal House of Justice provides to the Baha'i community and to the world.



Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving Our Global Crises

October 1 to November 18, 2019

We will discuss solutions to the multitude



of seemingly intractable problems the world faces--including climate change, financial instability, human-rights abuses, and nuclear proliferation--that are offered by exporting the principles of American federalism to the world, as advised by `Abdu'l-Bahá in 1912. We will explore both the American experience and Europe's federal experiment after World War II. The course will also provide tools for

responding to skeptics who argue that nations will never be willing to cede sovereignty and that an abusive world government might emerge.

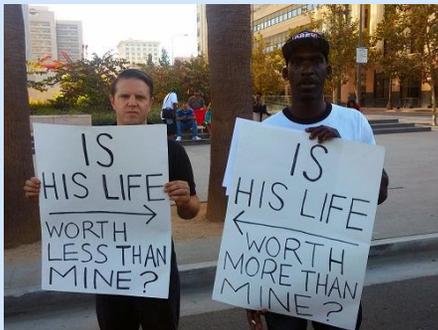
Economic Justice in a World of Injustices

October 5 to November 29, 2019

It is commonly assumed that the economic health of a society is accurately represented by indices such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and that the human experience is all but irrelevant. In this course, however, we will view



economics and economic justice from a totally different perspective: through the lens of distributive justice. According to the Bahá'í Writings, economic progress is perpetuated by justice. Issues of economic justice are fundamentally about the ethics and moral foundation of income distribution. Distributive justice is often considered not to belong to the scope of economics, but there is actually an important body of literature in economics that addresses social and economic justice.



Racism in America: The Most Vital and Challenging Issue

October 10 to December 11, 2019

This course will examine racism and racial prejudice in American society in some of its most serious manifestations, explore the content and significance of relevant Bahá'í authoritative texts, and consider how Bahá'ís can initiate meaningful

conversations and public discourse in a variety of contexts. It will explore definitions of race, racism, and prejudice, and examine such subjects as colonialism and slavery; the prison industrial complex; Black Lives Matter and policing issues; white privilege and bias/stereotyping; segregation, gentrification, and reparations; black women and social justice; and the Civil Rights Movement. Ultimately, participants will acquire tools to apply this knowledge to Bahá'í community life and to use it in social-action projects.

365 Courses

Register anytime and study them at your own pace!

Currently available are:

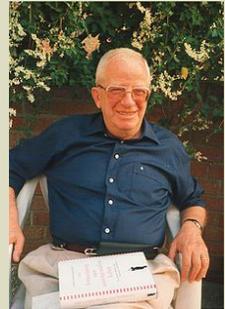
- [Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?](#)
- [Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)
- [Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)
- [Building Intercultural Understanding as a Couple](#)
- [Making Time and Service Choices As a Couple](#)
- [Enhancing Love, Friendship, and Service in Your Marriage](#)
- [Creating Marriage Well-Being from the Beginning](#)
- [Nurturing your Baby Spiritually During Pregnancy](#)



[More on 365 courses](#)

The Passing of Udo Schaefer, 1926-2019

The late Dr. Udo Schaefer in his professional life was a public prosecutor in Heidelberg, Germany. He wrote a 1957 groundbreaking doctoral thesis on the legal and spiritual foundations of the Baha'i Administrative Order. He went on to distinguish himself as a thorough, painstaking Baha'i scholar, establishing his reputation in the unexplored areas of Baha'i theology and ethics. He was one of the foremost contemporary European scholars and apologists who successfully defended the Baha'i Faith from its unscrupulous detractors. He ascended to the Abha Kingdom on August 30.



Conferences

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / October 10-13, 2019
English and Persian
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

Useful 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](#)
[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](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)
[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

Other Links

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

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Baha'i Reference Library](#)
[Baha'i World News Service](#)
[Baha'i World News Service Podcasts](#)
[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](#)

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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