



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

Wilmette Institute News

Introducing Chitra Golestani, the new Wilmette Institute Associate Director



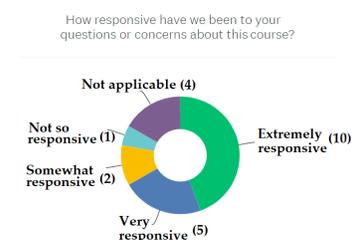
The Wilmette Institute is pleased to announce that Dr. Chitra Golestani has begun her service as the Institute's new Associate Director. She brings extensive experience in the application of Baha'i principles to the problems of the world as a co-founder of the Paulo Friere Institute at the University of California Los Angeles and as a faculty with the Institute for Humane Education. She will work particularly on developing relationships with universities, faculty, and university students. She is also assisting with our work to become accredited and is working to expand our courses related to social transformation.

2020 Courses Featured in New Online Catalog

The Wilmette Institute has published a new online Course Catalog, which contains course descriptions, current information on fees for all courses, and contact info for the Department Chairs. Since it draws from a web database, it can be quickly and easily updated. A draft Student Handbook has also been published and a Faculty Handbook will soon be available.

How Are We Doing? Update on Student Satisfaction

In September the Institute launched a new Student Satisfaction survey. It also changed the way it presents its Course Evaluation survey to students. Read on to learn why surveys are important to the Institute at this stage in its development, and what the surveys are indicating.



Student News

[Course on Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred Generates Evening of Music and Storytelling](#)



As a result of taking the Wilmette Institute course **Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred**, three Indianapolis Bahá'ís--Victor Chaney, Stephanie Charvin, and Debbie Wittman--organized a very successful evening of storytelling and music on August 30 with some of the Native Americans in their area.

[Course on Racism Helps Learner Address "Unconscious Biases"](#)

Terrie McVay has been absorbing and reflecting on the readings, ranging from Ta Nehisi Coates to Shoghi Effendi, and pondering the unconscious biases he is encountering.

Tip for Sustainable Living

[What is clean? How often should I wash my clothes?](#)



Our personal cleanliness comes at some cost to the environment. Washing clothes requires water and energy. In many areas of the world, water is scarce, and energy production from fossil fuels is polluting our air and water, which contributes to climate

change. . .

[Web Talks](#)

There are no Web Talks in October so that everyone can focus on the bicentenary of the birth of the Bab. The talks will resume On November 10.

Now on YouTube and Sound Cloud:

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

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



[Muhammad](#)

Steven Phelps, "[Overview of the Writings of the Bab](#)"

Todd Lawson, "[The Qayyum al-Asma, The Surih of Dominion \(Mulk\)](#)"

[October-November Online Courses](#)

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



[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.

[Watch the video](#)

[An Excellent and Priceless Heritage: The Three Covenants of the Baha'i Faith](#)

October 2 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.



[Watch the video](#)



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.

[Watch the video](#)

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.



[Watch the video](#)

What Is Baha'i Courtship, Marriage, and Family Life?

November 4 to December 15, 2019



Come learn about being a couple, creating a marriage, and having a family based on the teachings of the Baha'i Faith. The course introduces principles that guide a couple through courtship, such as knowing each other's character and building a friendship. Once married, further spiritual principles help the couple establish their physical and spiritual unity on solid ground. Families come in many varieties these days, but there are always key spiritual principles that guide parenting and family life. The course is open to anyone interested in better understanding

the Baha'i Faith's teachings on these topics.

The Equality of Women and Men

November 10 to December 28, 2019

Develop a thorough understanding of the Baha'i principle of the equality of women and men and explore its application in our personal development, families, workplaces, Baha'i communities, and in public discourse. Explore the nature of human identity and the acquisition of self-knowledge, equality in the family, transforming economic structures and processes, women's role in peace building and governance, eliminating violence against women, men and boys as partners in achieving equality, and the important role played by the media. The curriculum will draw upon the Baha'i Writings, social science and policy research, and analysis and commentary. Special emphasis will be placed on champions of equality from Baha'i history, including the life of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and the use of case studies.



Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places

November 12 to December 30, 2019

The course is designed for Baha'is who wish to compose a memoir about their own lives, produce a biography of a Baha'i mentor, or write the history of their local Baha'i community. Units in the first half of the course will cover such topics as selecting a topic and settling on an audience; the philosophy and ethics of writing biographies and history; collecting oral history; research in archives and libraries and on the web; organizing notes and outlining the topic. In the second half of the course, participants will pursue a research

and writing project with support and advice from the faculty. The Wilmette Institute may be interested in publishing some short histories, biographies, and memoirs on its public website.

The Seven Valleys and the Arts of Transformation

November 15, 2019 to January 9, 2020

The purpose and method of this course is to actively use the arts to explore the path of spiritual development as presented in Baha'u'llah's *The Seven Valleys*, which describes the states and stations of spiritual progress. Each week, the learner will be responsible for reading materials related to these stages, and exploring topics and questions through an artistic expression, such as a poem, drawing, or music, along with a caption and/or succinct explanation (up to 50 words). At the end of the course the learners will be asked to present an essay, collage or portfolio of art created in the course or an artwork that summarizes what they learned and how this experiential process affected their personal growth.



Baha'u'llah's Proclamation to World Leaders: The Summons of the Lord of Hosts

November 20, 2019 to January 14, 2020

The course will explore the series of open letters ("Tablets") that Baha'u'llah sent to "kings and ecclesiastics" (the world's political and religious leaders) and, to a lesser extent, to scholars, between 1867 and 1870. Written after He privately declared His mission to select followers in the Garden of Ridvan on 21 April 1863, these public epistles, according to the Universal House of Justice, "summoned the monarchs of East and West collectively, and some among them individually, to recognize the Day of God and to acknowledge the One promised in the scriptures of the religions professed by the recipients of His Summons." Baha'u'llah Himself says that this Proclamation was unique in the annals of religious history: "Never since the beginning of the world hath the Message been so openly proclaimed."

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](#)

Conferences

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / October 10-13, 2019

English and Persian

Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

[The Four Valleys: A Thematic Approach](#) / Nov. 16-17, 2019

Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Casa Grande, AZ

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](#)

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#)

[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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Editors

Betty J. Fisher
Robert H. Stockman

Production

Robert H. Stockman
Niki Daniels

Contributors

Victor Chaney
Stephanie Charvin
Christine Muller
Debbie Wittman
Robert H. Stockman

Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388)

Email: info@wilmetteinstitute.org

Web: <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>

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

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

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www.bahai.us

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