

UBIS Newsletter

ubis.urantia.org

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2015 > April Trimester

Dear Students,

We are pleased to inform you that, since January 2014 (the inaugural year of our new Moodle platform), more than 840 students worldwide have registered at the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) for courses in English, Spanish, and French. Each trimester our team receives touching testimonials from individuals who express their gratitude for how the courses have expanded their understanding of the teachings. The opportunity to discuss the assigned sections and papers and to share their religious life is so rewarding. This is what makes UBIS so special. This is “food for the soul.”

During the April trimester, UBIS is offering six courses in English, two courses in French, and two courses in Spanish. The curriculum of the UBIS trimester consists of at least one course addressing each of the four parts of *The Urantia Book*. Although each Teacher-Facilitator (TF) is free to design his or her course, all courses must meet the basic curriculum requirements. UBIS courses address different levels of reading experience from beginner to advanced. UBIS TFs are conscious of the necessity to facilitate a careful and comprehensive study of *The Urantia Book* in all aspects and levels, as the Urantia revelation is a unique source of mind expansion and growth of cosmic consciousness. TFs are also committed to designing their courses in a non-interpretative way, thereby enabling the students to reach their own interpretations. During the preparation of each course, every TF receives the assistance of the Course Review Committee, which comprises experienced students of *The Urantia Book* and UBIS TFs. I invite you to read the following article by Judy Cosky, co-chair of that committee.

The UBIS team invites you to enroll in a course this trimester. A Divine Counselor promised that “there dwells within the human mind a fragment of God, and that there sojourns with the human soul the Spirit of Truth; and we further know that these spirit forces conspire to enable material man to grasp the reality of spiritual values and to comprehend the philosophy of universe meanings. But even



Lotus photo by Hwang Soo Ping

more certainly we know that these spirits of the Divine Presence are able to assist man in the spiritual appropriation of all truth contributory to the enhancement of the ever progressing reality of personal religious experience—God consciousness.” (17.2) 0:12.13

Georges Michelson-Dupont
UBIS Director

*More than 840 students
worldwide have registered
at UBIS.*

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**Urantia Book Internet School
(UBIS)**

ubis.urantia.org

Questions? 773.525.3319 or
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UBIS Newsletter

The Role of the Course Review Committee in Facilitating Revelation

“Revelation as an epochal phenomenon is periodic; as a personal human experience it is continuous.” (1107.2) 101:2.12 The mission of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) encompasses this dual description of revelation. Not only do we recognize the gift of *The Urantia Book* as the fifth epochal revelation, but our desire is to also facilitate the experience of personal revelation and learning through interactive group study via online courses.

In order to achieve this exciting objective, we need willing and knowledgeable teachers who will devote their time and efforts to designing and developing online courses, and who will then skillfully facilitate these courses within a classroom of international students who originate from every geographic corner of our planet. Even on the higher worlds to which we will someday ascend, ongoing education is highly valued. “The Brilliant Evening Stars . . . frequently serve as teachers in the various educational enterprises of the universe, including those sponsored by the Melchizedeks. Also do the Trinity Teacher Sons collaborate, and they impart the touches of Paradise perfection to these progressive training schools.” (517.4) 45:7.2 On our own world, UBIS works toward furthering the dissemination of truth, and our educational online courses are constructed by trained teachers with the assistance of a Course Review Committee (CRC), a group of experienced teachers who are entrusted with reviewing the proposed courses before they are offered to our students.

What exactly is the purpose and role of a CRC? Why is it important? To attempt

to answer these questions, as the chair of one of the review committees, I would like to describe a little of my own background and how I found my niche in this role. I discovered *The Urantia Book* forty years ago when I was a college student and working as a waitress. A customer lent me a copy of this amazing book. Many years later I enrolled in my first UBIS course and encountered the rich joy of studying the fifth epochal revelation online with other readers. Eventually I volunteered to design and teach my own UBIS course, but admittedly I had some apprehension as to what such an endeavor involved. I personally found that working with the experienced teachers who comprised the CRC helped to enhance my course, its adherence to a cohesive outline, and the development of stimulating study questions. Not only do the questions promote a careful study of the assigned readings from *The Urantia Book*, but also the students’ responses to these questions serve to stimulate the energetic and thoughtful sharing of personal understanding and experience during the discussion weeks.

The UBIS learning experience, by offering students the opportunity to reach for higher levels of understanding and truth, provides a generous opportunity for the gift of personal revelation. At the least, students may acquire “truth gems” through a “union of souls” with other readers. There is such a fantastic variety of courses that are offered for all different levels of readers. With the assistance of the CRC, all of these courses are carefully reviewed so that their design and presentation in the online classroom will facilitate a greater depth of personal

revelation and a fuller comprehension of the concepts of truth, beauty, and goodness.

What have I and my co-chair, Dave Elders, learned from chairing one of our two CRCs? We have both personally experienced the tremendous value of teamwork and service, lessons we can all practice down here in our mortal habitat, and which we may someday utilize in our vast eternal future. “One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend, the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows.” (312.1) 28:5.14

The UBIS board and staff and CRC hope the shared online learning experience contributes to expanding our students’ cosmic consciousness and enhancing their understanding of truth, beauty, and goodness. We believe there is value in studying the fifth epochal revelation, *The Urantia Book*, with other truth seekers. “Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists.” (1094.2) 100:0.2 Through the teamwork and collaboration of the CRC and UBIS teachers, the construction of courses and stimulating study questions is strengthened, and the discovery of revelatory truth is enhanced for our students.

Judy Cosky
CRC Co-Chair

Revelation as an epochal phenomenon is periodic.

Things to Know*

*All dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website for the latest: [Registration Information](#)

Click Here
for more information
about UBIS.

April 2015 Trimester

6-19 April trimester registration.

20 April trimester courses will begin.



Following are the courses and Teacher-Facilitators (TFs) for the April session. For the most recent information, visit ubis.urantia.org



Spanish and French Courses

To see the Spanish and French courses available this trimester, please visit the Spanish and French websites:

<http://www.urantia.org/es/>

<http://www.urantia.org/fr/>



1. Course Title: The Ministering Spirits and Personalities of Nebadon, Our Local Universe Home

Course Level: All Readers

Course Description: Michael of Nebadon and our local universe Mother Spirit are our “literal” mother and father. They have created a vast number of beings to administer, minister, and maintain their creation. This study will explore the structure of our local universe governance, the ministering spirit groups, and the ascending sons of God within which human mortals are included.

Papers: 37, 38, 39, 40

Teacher-Facilitator: Virginia Heller

From Oklahoma, Virginia is a practicing child psychiatrist. She is a mother and grandmother and has studied *The Urantia Book* since 1973.

2. Course Title: The Death and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

Course Level: All Readers

Course Description: This course will study the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as he completes his final bestowal as a Creator Son. We will begin our study with the Last Supper and will follow Jesus as he prays in Gethsemane, is betrayed by Judas, is arrested by the Roman soldiers, is tried before the Sanhedrin and Pilate, and is then crucified. Finally, we will study Jesus’ triumphant resurrection from the dead.

Papers: 182, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, and selected sections from 179, 180, 183, 184, and 190

Teacher-Facilitator: Judy Cosky

Judy lives in Michigan and is a long time reader of *The Urantia Book*, having discovered it 40 years ago. She is married with two grown sons and has a new granddaughter. She has an advanced degree in psychiatric nursing and has worked as a college instructor and psychotherapist.

3. Course Title: Understanding Mind: Our Bridge to an Eternity of Adventure

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: The human mind, while conscious of values as well as of facts, is not over-endowed with consistency and wisdom. However, “mind is the indispensable channel of communication between spiritual and material realities.” The origin and role of the human, cosmic, and spiritual mind will be the focus of this course.

Papers: 8, 9, 16, and selected sections from

42 and 56

Teacher-Facilitator: Pam Maunakea

Originally from Hawaii, Pam moved to Southern California to attend college in 1973. She has two adult children and has been reading *The Urantia Book* since 1970. Pam works as a department business manager at a college near her home.

4. Course Title: True Religion: The Great Liberator

Course Level: All Readers

Course Description: One of the important revelations of *The Urantia Book* is related to what true religion is. How do we get to courageously live our own relationship with God? How do we move from mere belief to living faith? How do we live in God, with God, for God, and for the spiritual well-being of all, including ourselves?

Papers: Papers 100, 101, 102, 103

Teacher-Facilitator: Guy Perron

Guy Perron is from Montréal, Canada. He immersed himself in *The Urantia Book* in 2000, felt that no human could write like this, and perceived right away that he was blessed with a great and powerful work of love, a true revelation.

5. Course Title: The Inescapable Command

Course Level: Advanced

Course Description: “Be you perfect as I am perfect” is the inescapable command the Father has given as our eternal goal. Our topical study will explore pertinent teachings from *The Urantia Book* about this divine edict. We will seek to determine what this paradoxical injunction means,

Enrich your life and the lives of fellow truth seekers worldwide
by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding
of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

why it is our first duty and supreme ambition, and how we might meet this challenge effectively in our daily lives.

Papers: Selected sections from the Foreword and from Papers 1, 2, 5, 7, 16, 26, 36, 42, 100, 101, 102, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112, 196

Teacher-Facilitator: Georges Michelson-Dupont

Georges has been retired from his business since 2010. He and his wife have been readers of *The Urantia Book* since 1970. They enjoy hosting study groups and seminars in their home in Recluses, France.



UBIS Needs TEACHERS!

UBIS needs experienced *readers* to serve as Teacher-Facilitators (TFs).

Enrich your life and the lives of fellow truth seekers worldwide by facilitating a broader and deeper understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. What you learn as a teacher will be well worth the effort. Treat yourself!

Those interested must first complete two or more courses as a student, read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety, and be recommended by their TFs. The final and most advanced requirement is to successfully complete the Teacher Training Program, a four to five week intensive training course, offered annually, covering the Jesusonian teaching approach, course development, skillful questioning techniques, and classroom management.

For more information, please call 773.525.3319 or write to joanne@urantia.org.

If you cannot teach at this time but would like to help in some other way...

UBIS needs loyal readers to serve in many other capacities. Please let us know how you might be willing to help.



Using the UBIS Website

ubis.urantia.org

To register for a course on the UBIS homepage for the first time, click “Create new account.” Save your username and password for current and future trimesters. When registration opens, you may log in to request enrollment in the course of your choice. Please contact us about any questions at the following email address: joanne@urantia.org.

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What Students Write...

From a new student:

“I find that the class participation pushes me into deeper study of *The Urantia Book* content.”