

Fall 2013

Course Schedule



Shimer

The Great Books
College of Chicago

Comments from IIT students about Shimer

The experience I had at Shimer College was awesome. Being able to be in a small classroom of only 7 students and to be encouraged to discuss differing opinions and views was great. While the professor did prod the conversations and sometimes had to ensure that everybody got a chance to speak the class was largely student run. The opportunity to openly discuss current issues and to learn about how an organization might deal with them was very interesting and insightful for a student of Biomedical Engineering.

While IIT has a diverse student population, meeting and working with students from Shimer College also opened me up to new experiences. While engineering students are often taught how to master logic and the working out perfect solutions; Shimer students are taught to take any idea, no matter how ridiculous it may seem, and run with it to see where it might take them.

I am very happy to have received my degree from IIT, however, the opportunity to work with Shimer College faculty and learn in their classroom environment made my education more valuable because learning will never stop and if you only have one way to learn then you will be severely limiting your growth in the future.

I took a film class at Shimer, which I would highly recommend. There were never any lectures like in most IIT courses-- all discussions were student-led. The small class size led to very thoughtful discussions. Also, I got to meet a new group of students I would otherwise have never met, and have remained friends with some of them.

Shimerians are completely different from most IIT students, and I wanted to meet them. I also wanted to experience a rigorous and discussion-based approach to literature. I understood before taking the class that there would be a lot of reading, a lot of writing papers, but most of all a lot of talking in class, and I wanted to expand my worldview in this way. When I took this class, I realized that the Shimer floor was very home-y and that students not only took classes there, they could recognize by sight and name everyone in the building, which was a completely foreign experience to me, and very pleasant.

The Shimerian approach to discourse is sometimes abrasive and very often goes off on diversions that I would never have thought of. I developed my skills of argument to a much higher level than I ever would have without that class. I also read some interesting works by ancient writers that I had never heard of before. During the paper revision process, I learned the Shimerian way of improving a paper-- i.e. to completely demolish it and then build it back up again with a much better understanding of what it should be.

Shimerians are aggressively literate and they in general enjoy examining concepts from all sides, playing devil's advocate, and making elaborate logic structures in order to make points. I believe that taking a Shimer class can help IIT students to open their minds to the concept that the war of words is challenging, and not just what people who can't do engineering have to resort to.



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About Shimer College

Shimer College is a four-year liberal arts college located on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus in Chicago.

Shimer is one of a handful of Great Books Colleges in the United States. Being a Great Books College means that instead of reading textbooks, our students enjoy reading and discussing original texts, becoming participants in what we call *The Great Conversation* — a timeless exchange of ideas about art, life, meaning, and the natural world. At Shimer, we are committed to thoughtful and rigorous conversations about ideas from a wide range of original texts such as Plato's *Apology*, W.E.B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk*, Jane Goodall's *Chimpanzees of Gombe*, and Euclid's *Elements*.

To facilitate this conversation, our classes have no more than twelve students, our faculty challenge participants to express their thoughts clearly and relate them to the reading, and students read about, reflect on, and integrate ideas across many disciplines.

Shimer's cross-registration agreements with the Illinois Institute of Technology, VanderCook College of Music, and the Chicago City Colleges offer students the opportunity to take a wider variety of courses **without paying extra tuition**. Please see the individual course descriptions for IIT credit information. Directions for the application and registration process can be found on page 14.



Academic Calendar 2013-2014

Weekday	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
New Student Registration	Aug. 19	Jan. 13
Classes Begin	Aug. 21	Jan. 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - <i>No Classes</i>	***	Jan. 20
Last Day to Add/Drop	Aug. 28	Jan. 22
Labor Day - <i>No Classes</i>	Sep. 2	***
100% Tuition Refund Date	Sep. 9	Feb. 3
Classes on Monday Schedule	Th, Sep. 19	W, Feb 12
Presidential Inauguration - <i>No Classes</i>	Sep. 20	***
Dean's Break - <i>No Classes</i>	Oct. 14-16	Feb. 13-14
Spring Break - <i>No Classes</i>	***	March 17-21
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	Nov. 12	Apr. 11
Classes End	Nov. 26	Apr. 25
Thanksgiving Break - <i>No Classes</i>	Nov. 27-29	***
Writing Week	Dec. 2 - Dec. 6	Apr. 28 - May 2
Final Conferences and Registration	Dec. 9 - Dec. 13	May 5 - 9

Commencement: Saturday, May 3, 2014

Weekday Class Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TIME					
8:30 - 9:50	Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A
	Nat Sci 3 A		Nat Sci 3 A	Nat Sci 3 A	
10:00 - 11:20	Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B
	Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A
	IS2 A	Ethics of Intellectual	IS2 A	Ethics of Intellectual	IS2 A
	Nat Sci 2		Nat Sci 2	Nat Sci 2	
	Soc 3 B		Soc 3 B	Soc 3 B	
	IS 5 A	Dark Side	Dark Side		Dark Side
11:30 - 12:50	IS2 B		IS2 B		IS2 B
	Soc 1 A		Soc 1 A	Soc 1 A	
	Nat Sci 3 B		Nat Sci 3 B	Film A - Kubrick	Nat Sci 3 B
		Hum 3 A	Hum 3 A		Hum 3 A
	Heidegger		Heidegger		Heidegger
	IS 5 A		IS 5 A		IS 5 A
1:45 - 3:05	Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C	Film B - Kubrick	Hum 1 C
	Soc 1 B		Soc 1 B		Soc 1 B
	IS 5 B		IS 5 B		IS 5 B
	Soc 1 C		Soc 1 C	Soc 1 C	
		Latin I		Latin I	Latin I
	Nat Sci 1 A	Nat Sci 1 A		Nat Sci 1 A	
	Soc 3 C		Soc 3 C		Soc 3 C
	Hum 3 B	Hum 3 B		Hum 3 B	
3:15 - 4:35			Meetings and Events		
	Nat Sci 1 B	Nat Sci 1 B		Nat Sci 1 B	
	IS 5 B				
	Tutorials				
4:45 - 6:05	Why & What	Why & What		Why & What	
	Rumi & Sufi Tradition	Film A & B - Kubrick		Rumi & Sufi Tradition	

Class schedules subject to change.

Shimer's Weekend Program

Shimer College offers weekend courses for working adults that meet every third weekend during the semester. Meeting dates for the Fall 2013 semester are as follows:

Weekend	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
Registration for Continuing Students	Sat., May 11 - Sun., May 12	Sat., Dec. 21 - Sun., Dec. 22
Meeting #1	Aug. 24 - 25	Jan. 11-12
Meeting #2	Sep. 14-15	Feb. 1 - 2
Meeting #3	Oct. 5-6	Feb. 22 - 23
Meeting #4	Oct. 26-27	Mar. 15 - 16
Meeting #5	Nov. 16-17	Apr. 5 - 6
Meeting #6	Dec. 7-8	Apr. 26 - 27
Meeting #7	Dec. 21-22	May 17 - 18
Writing Weekend	***	May 31 - June 1
Last Day to Add/Drop	Aug. 28	Jan. 15
100% Tuition Refund Date	Sep. 16	Feb. 3
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	Dec. 7-8	Apr. 26

Saturday		
9:15 - 12:45	Integrative Studies 5	Social Sciences 1
12:45 - 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 - 5:40	Natural Sciences 3	
Sunday		
9:15 - 12:00	Integrative Studies 5	
12:00 - 12:50	Lunch	
12:50 - 5:00	Social Sciences 3	

Class schedules subject to change.



Course Descriptions

Core Courses—Humanities

Art and Music (Humanities 1)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 100-level

Humanities 1 consists of investigation of the elements and forms of the musical and visual arts. This course is primarily dedicated to the tasks of active listening and viewing. No previous training in music or facility at drawing or painting is presumed. Working with fundamental concepts in music and painting, students develop a rich vocabulary with which to discuss, describe, and experience music and the visual arts. Readings include texts by Plato, Alberti, Vasari, Bach, Gershwin, Tolstoy, Rilke, and Albers.

Philosophy and Theology (Humanities 3)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisites: Humanities 1 and 2

Humanities 3 introduces students to philosophy, theology, and the Bible. Concentrating on significant texts in each discipline from antiquity until the early nineteenth century, the course investigates their distinctive methods of approach, their use of logic and narrative, and the problems they seek to solve. Readings include texts by Plato, biblical excerpts, Augustine, Aquinas, Teresa of Avila, Pascal, Locke, and Kierkegaard.

Core Courses—Integrative Studies

Foundations of Mathematics and Logic (Integrative Studies 2)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Integrative Studies 2 features the study of the foundations of mathematics and logic. This course includes a variety of logical, mathematical, and geometrical systems, both ancient and modern, that demonstrate both the power and the limitations of mathematics. The course is designed to increase students' abilities to think logically and express themselves with precision. Readings include texts by Euclid, Aristotle, Descartes, Einstein, and Lobachevsky.

History and Philosophy of Western Civilization (Integrative Studies 5)

8 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Prerequisite: Final-year status and successful completion of the Basic Comprehensive Exam

Integrative Studies 5 and 6 comprise a unified sequence of intensive courses that complement the rest of Shimer's core curriculum and emphasize its essential unity. The works in this sequence, selected from major writings that are not studied elsewhere in the core curriculum, are read chronologically in order to emphasize their historical relationship to one another as part of a "great conversation" throughout Western intellectual history. Readings in Integrative Studies 5 include texts by Homer, Sappho, Aeschylus, Herodotus, Cicero, Virgil, Ptolemy, and Dante, among many others.

Core Courses—Natural Sciences

Laws and Models in Chemistry (Natural Sciences 1)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Natural Sciences 1 addresses the question, “What is the world made of?” The course begins with the study of the responses of Ancient Greek philosophers to that question, including Democritus’ theory of atoms, and concludes with Curie’s unnerving revelation that the “uncuttable” atom might be divisible into smaller pieces. The course focuses upon several key concepts, such as weight, structure, and complexity, in an attempt to understand the material basis of the world. Readings also include texts by Aristotle, Lucretius, Pascal, Bacon, Lavoisier, and Cannizzaro.

Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior (Natural Sciences 2)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Natural Sciences 2 explores the interaction among living organisms. Consideration is given to the level of genetic units within the organism, the level of species, the environmental level, and the level of human concern. The concept of evolution provides groundwork for this inquiry into biological organization. The relationships between evolution, genetics, the environment, and animal behavior are foci for investigation and discussion. Readings include texts by Aristotle, Lamarck, Darwin, Mendel, and Goodall.

The Nature of Light (Natural Sciences 3)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, Integrative Studies 2, and the Mathematics Examination

Natural Sciences 3 explores the nature of light. Students examine the development of the theories of falling bodies, gravitation, and electromagnetic forces in order to better understand optical phenomena. The investigation of physical theories includes exploration of such crucial scientific questions as these: What phenomena need to be explained? How are they explained? What constitutes a satisfactory explanation? Readings include texts by Galileo, Newton, Fresnel, Oersted, Faraday, Hertz, and Maxwell. Natural Sciences 3 is a Designated Writing Course.

Core Courses—Social Sciences

Society, Culture, and Personality (Social Sciences 1)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level

Social Sciences 1 introduces students to major disciplines within the social sciences—anthropology, psychology, and sociology—through the study of influential original texts in those fields. This course focuses on the nature of individual persons and the interrelationship and interaction between those individuals and their cultural and social world. It aims to give a better understanding of how individuals live, develop, and are affected by their culture. Readings include texts by James, Weber, DuBois, Durkheim, Freud, Piaget, and Gilligan. Course instructors work intensively with students on their writing in this Designated Writing Course.

Modern Theories of Society and Politics (Social Sciences 3)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level

Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1 and 2

Social Sciences 3 examines and critiques the Western political tradition, continuing the survey of Western political thought initiated in Social Sciences 2 while also furthering investigation of many of the questions addressed in Social Sciences 1. The course features nineteenth and twentieth century works which offer various ways of comprehending the social, psychological, economic, and political structure of the modern world. Readings include texts by Smith, Hegel, Tocqueville, Mill, de Beauvoir, Arendt, and Said.

Elective Courses

Heidegger

Humanities, 5 Credits, Adam Kotsko, Prerequisites: Hum 3 or Soc 3

This advanced seminar will introduce students to the thought of Martin Heidegger. We will proceed by means of a close reading of his masterwork, *Being and Time*, an innovative exploration of the meaning of human existence that deeply influenced twentieth-century thought across many disciplines.

The Dark Side of Evolution: From Social Darwinism to Sociobiology

Social Sciences / Natural Sciences, 5 Credits, Daniela Barberis

We will explore various attempts to apply evolutionary ideas to the study and “improvement” of humans, starting in Darwin’s time with Social Darwinism, through various attempts at measuring human capacities, from anthropometry to intelligence testing, and considering eugenics through sociobiology.

Why – and what – should we read?

Humanities / Social Sciences, 5 Credits, Stuart Patterson

This course is about what we read and why. We begin with Plato's *Phaedrus* and its - very ambiguous - warnings against the ethical and intellectual dangers posed by reading and writing. With the *Phaedrus* in mind, we go on to consider the process of canon formation, including Shimer's list of "great books" as well as the historical formation of the Christian canon, especially the four Gospels. From there we turn to early modern personal encounters with books, especially *Don Quixote*, thence to modern theories of "intertextuality" in the work of Julia Kristeva and readings of the *Phaedrus* and *Don Quixote* by Jaques Derrida and Jorge Luis Borges, and finally to the material history of reading and writing technologies in the work of Marshall McLuhan. There will be field trips to the Art Institute of Chicago and the Newberry Library. Students' work will mainly take the form of the creation of and contributions to a course website.

Elective Courses

Rumi and the Sufi Tradition

Humanities / Social Sciences, 3 credits, Ron Kidd

This course will serve both to introduce Sufi spirituality as well as the iconic work of Rumi. We will discuss *surahs* of the Qua'an with kinship to the Sufi tradition, read excerpts of Rumi's prose work, *Fihri ma Fihri*, containing discourses, lectures, and conversations, and finally selections of his poetry, arguably the finest religious poetry in world literature.

Ethics of Intellectual Property

Humanities / Social Sciences, 3 credits, Jim Ulrich

Critics of intellectual property rights often know little about the field, and those working in the field, in their race to secure and defend their intellectual property, rarely take the time to consider the ethical framework of their efforts. This course addresses foundational issues such as property and rights, situates patents and copyrights within various ethical frameworks, and looks at cases that illustrate uses and abuses of intellectual property.

Film Genre Study: Kubrick

Humanities, 3 Credits, Marc Hoffman, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

From his youthful start as a photographer at *Look* Magazine to his death just days after submitting a final cut of *Eyes Wide Shut*, Stanley Kubrick remained the quintessential auteur of his period. In addition to weekly screenings we'll study critical essay on his work, read two of the novels Kubrick used as source material for his screenplays, and explore his technological advances in special effects and camera art—advances which changed the look of cinema.

Beginning Latin I

Humanities, 5 Credits, Harold Stone, IIT Equivalent: Free Elective

An introduction to Latin. No previous knowledge of Latin is expected.

Registration Dates & Procedures

Registration dates for the Fall 2013 semester are:

Continuing Weekday Students:	May 7th –8th
Continuing Weekend Students:	May 11th –12th
New Weekday Students:	August 19th
New Weekend Students:	Rolling
IIT/VCM/CCC Students:	Rolling

To Cross-Register for Shimer Courses:

IIT students must first submit a petition to the IIT Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs in 101 Main Bldg. (formerly Educational Services) requesting permission to enroll in a course at Shimer College, and then contact Shimer Registrar Jim Ulrich at (312) 235-3523 or by email at: j.ulrich@shimer.edu to complete the process.

VanderCook students should consult with their academic adviser to determine the applicability of a Shimer class to their program of study and then contact Shimer Registrar Jim Ulrich at (312) 235-3523 or by email at: j.ulrich@shimer.edu and the VanderCook Registrar to complete the process.

Chicago City Colleges students who have completed at least one Great Books course at their home school should speak with their academic adviser and receive approval to cross-register for a course before contacting Shimer Registrar Jim Ulrich at (312) 235-3523 or by email at j.ulrich@shimer.edu for more information.

*For students who are approved to cross-register at Shimer, the cost of each course will be covered **in full** by the student's home school tuition.*

Comments from IIT students about Shimer

Eileen is a great teacher and got me started on my path of formal acting training. Before her class, I had just been involved in 33rd and had no formal training, but now I've taken several acting classes here at Berkeley, where I am studying now, and what she taught me is still relevant. I remember one of the best aspects of taking a Shimer class was the difference in class structure. Much different from all of my other classes at IIT, we called our professor by her first name, we discussed relevant subjects, and most importantly, the structure wasn't controlled by a professor with a set of notes lecturing at a blackboard until class was over, but instead the class was fluid and flexible and we learned what we were interested in learning that day, week and semester. This is not to say, of course, that the class was entirely structureless and chaotic. Eileen is very knowledgeable on the subject and helped to steer the discussions and our learning toward an area that would be most beneficial to the class and to each of us individually. I really enjoyed my Shimer class and highly recommend any and all IIT students to broaden themselves by taking a Shimer class.

I took the Bioethics course with professor Jim Ulrich. It was a wonderful experience for me. Slightly different from IIT courses in that it was much more discussion based and less lecture based. I feel like I learned a great deal during the course and really enjoyed speaking with the professor and my classmates as they were willing to debate and discuss differing opinions on the subject matter. I feel that taking a Shimer class really helped to enrich and add to my experiences here at IIT, and I think many students could benefit from that same experience.

Shimer classes are a great way to get a new perspective on familiar topics (such as physics or math) or to delve into less familiar subjects (from feminism to the I Ching). The facilitators do a great job guiding discussion, and the students are very interested in what they're learning. Learning through dialogue is very engaging and ensures that everyone gets a full grasp on the subject matter. Everyone brings their own experience and knowledge to the table and you often end up learning much more than what the class is specifically focused on, since all knowledge is interconnected. Plus, the learning environment is relaxed and casual, so classes are a lot of fun.

I had a great experience at Shimer. I took a course on bioethics, not really knowing what to expect from the Shimer students or teachers. As far as the class goes, I took the course with a friend from IIT and the class size was about eight. The class was discussion based, with assigned readings and group discussion. The small class size and close teacher-student relationship allowed for many interesting and lengthy discussions on bioethics and various topics related to bioethics and the readings. The teacher was very hands on but did not guide the discussions, it was purely guided by the flow of conversation of the students. Although, every once and a while, the teacher had to bring the group back to the topic of discussion. I would definitely recommend taking a Shimer course on a subject that peaks ones interest. You will meet new people and discover a different form of class structure from that of normal IIT courses.

*it's about **LEARNING** and a **PASSION** for it.*

There are no lectures at Shimer. Classes follow the Socratic method — professors ask questions that challenge you to articulate and support your ideas. That makes the Shimer classroom a dynamic place where the books and the conversation are always open.



Shimer

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