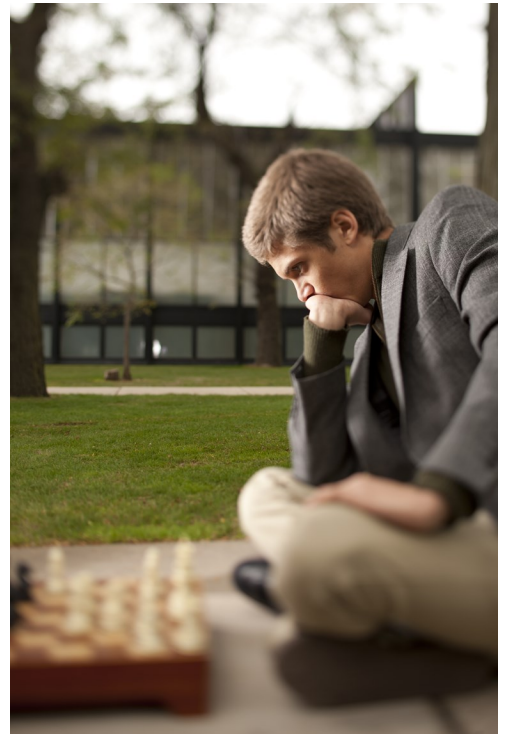


Spring 2015 Course Schedule



Shimer

The Great Books
College of Chicago

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.





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Directory

Registrar, Jim Ulrich: 312-235-3523
Dean of the College, Barbara Stone: 312-235-3510
Business Office Manager, Glendalyn Booker: 312-235-3514
Director of Financial Aid, Janet Henthorn: 312-235-3507
Admission Office: 312-235-3500

Spring 2014–2015 Academic Calendar

SHIMER COLLEGE	
Spring 2015	
New Student Orientation and Registration	Monday, January 12, 2015
Spring Classes Begin	Wednesday, January 14, 2015
Martin Luther King Day - No Classes	Monday, January 19, 2015
Last Day to Add/Drop with Full Tuition Refund	Friday, January 23, 2015
Classes on Monday Schedule	Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Dean's Break Begins - No Classes	Thursday, February 19, 2015
Dean's Break Ends - No Classes	Friday, February 20, 2015
Spring Break Begins - No Classes	Monday, March 16, 2015
Spring Break Ends - No Classes	Friday, March 20, 2015
Last Day to Withdraw	Friday, April 10, 2015
Last Day of Spring Classes	Friday, April 24, 2015
Writing Week Begins	Monday, April 27, 2015
Writing Week Ends	Friday, May 1, 2015
Commencement	Saturday, May 2, 2015
Final Conferences and Registration Begins	Tuesday, May 5, 2015
Final Conferences and Registration Ends	Friday, May 8, 2015



Weekday Class Schedule

SHIMER COLLEGE Spring 2015 Schedule

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 AM - 9:50 AM	Soc 4 A		Soc 4 A		Soc 4 A
	Calculus I		Calculus I		Calculus I
10:00 AM - 11:20 AM	Hum 2 A	IS 2 9:30 - 11:20	Hum 2 A	IS 2 9:30 - 11:20	Hum 2 A
	NatSci 2 A		NatSci 2 A		NatSci 2 A
		Hum 2 B	Hum 2 B		Hum 2 B
	Soc 4 B		Soc 4 B		Soc 4 B
	NatSci 4		NatSci 4		NatSci 4
	IS 4		IS 4		
	Race & Gender		Race & Gender		Race & Gender
11:30 AM - 12:50 PM		Hum 2 C	Hum 2 C		Hum 2 C
	Soc 2 A		Soc 2 A		Soc 2 A
	Hum 4 A		Hum 4 A		Hum 4 A
	IS 6 A	IS 6 A	IS 6 A		IS 6 A
	Hysteria		Hysteria		Hysteria
	Old Norse I A+B		Old Norse I A	Old Norse I A+B	
			Great Equations		Great Equations
LUNCH					
1:45 PM - 3:05 PM	Soc 2 B		Soc 2 B		Soc 2 B
	NatSci 2 B		NatSci 2 B		NatSci 2 B
	Hum 3		Hum 3	Hum 3	
	Hum 4 B		Hum 4 B		Hum 4 B
	IS 6 B	IS 6 B	IS 6 B		IS 6 B
	Qur'an		Qur'an		Qur'an
3:15 PM - 4:35 PM			Meetings and Events		

Class schedules subject to change.



Course Descriptions

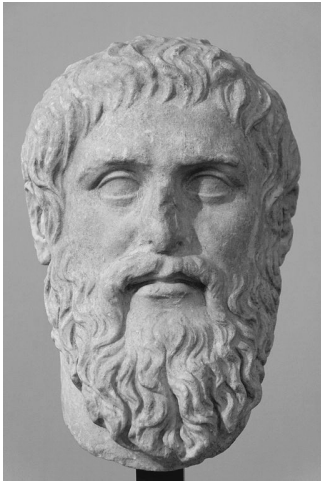
Core Courses – Humanities



Poetry, Drama & Fiction (Humanities 2)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 100-level

This course focuses on the literary arts. The class will work together to analyze works of poetry, drama, and prose fiction and to acquire the critical vocabulary needed to describe each one. Your perceptiveness as a reader will be enhanced as you learn to see the relationships between the formal elements of a text and its meaning. Readings vary from year to year, but often include texts by Homer, Sophocles, William Shakespeare, George Eliot, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, Samuel Beckett, and Virginia Woolf.



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.



Course Descriptions

Core Courses – Humanities



Modern Currents in the Humanities (Humanities 4)

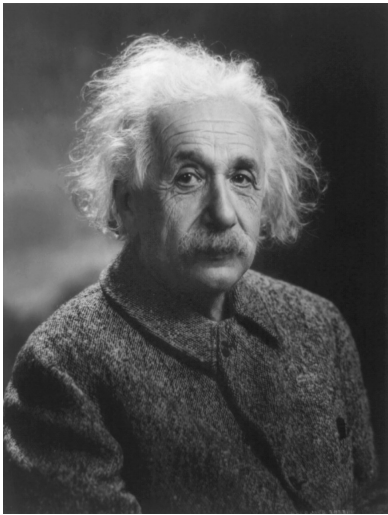
5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisites: Humanities 1, 2, and 3

In Humanities 4 you will learn to think theoretically about art, music, literature, philosophy, and theology. Focusing on works from the European Enlightenment period to the present, you will study significant works in the history of aesthetics and literary criticism. Readings include texts by Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, Igor Stravinsky, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Martin Buber, Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Schiller, Martin Heidegger, Susanne Langer, Michel Foucault, Susan Sontag, Helene Cixous, and Jacques Derrida.



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 6)

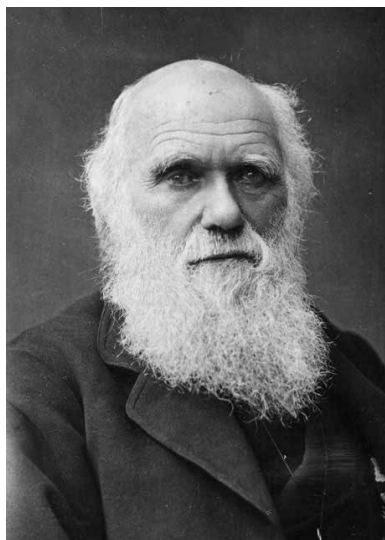
7 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Prerequisite: Senior Status

Integrative Studies 5 and 6 are designed as a unified, full-year sequence to be taken in your last full year of studies at Shimer. The readings in this course are arranged chronologically in order to demonstrate their historical relationship to one another. As you read, you will discover a wide range of connections between these texts and those you'll already have studied in other Shimer courses. As a result, you will experience first-hand the richness of the great intellectual traditions upon which the Shimer curriculum is based.

Readings in Integrative Studies 6 include texts by Geoffrey Chaucer, Christine de Pisan, Martin Luther, Thomas More, Nicolaus Copernicus, John Milton, David Hume, and Hannah Arendt, among many others.

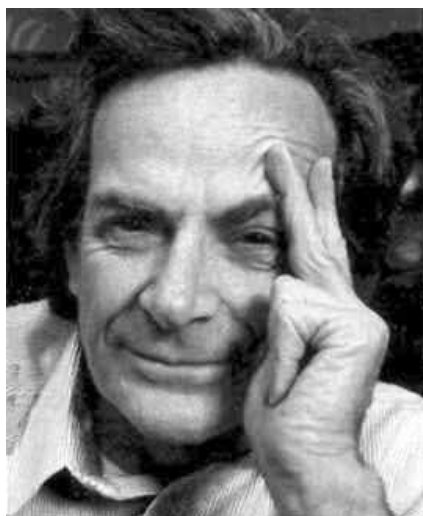
Core Courses – Natural Sciences



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.



Modern Scientific Revolutions (Natural Sciences 4)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, 2, and 3

Natural Sciences 4 focuses on the dramatic developments since the end of the nineteenth century, when both physics and biology moved from a macroscopic to a microscopic focus. This development revealed the perplexities involved in relating the microscopic world uncovered by science to everyday human experience. The course focuses on understanding the microscopic and statistical aspects of the workings of the world and then relating them to our own experiences of that world. Readings include texts by Werner

Heisenberg, Albert Einstein, J. Robert Oppenheimer, Erwin Schrodinger, Francis Crick, Richard Feynmann, and Lynn Margulis.

Core Courses – Social Sciences



The Western Political Tradition (Social Sciences 2)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level

In Social Sciences 2, you will become adept at examining political practices and the values which underpin them. The search for the “good life” through politics has been a human quest since antiquity, and the civic education of citizens is foundational to the classical formulation of liberal arts education. In this course you will discuss classic texts of political philosophy from ancient and medieval times as well as from the modern period. The class will also examine the founding documents of the American political system in light of these earlier works. Readings include texts by Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Locke, Hobbes, Wollstonecraft, Douglass, and Anthony.



Social Perspectives and Social Action (Social Sciences 4)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level

Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1, 2, and 3

In this final course of the sequence you will examine the conceptual framework and methodology of the various disciplines of the social sciences. We will read and discuss texts that will examine the social and political theories studied in previous classes through different eyes. Is it actually even possible to study the social world objectively? Old questions will be raised and old answers re-examined in the light of greater methodological awareness. Readings include texts by Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Mannheim, Michel Foucault, Paulo Freire, Sandra Harding, Genevieve Lloyd, and Clifford Geertz.

Elective Courses



Philosophy of Race & Gender (Humanities/Social Sciences)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisites/Co-requisite*: Social Sciences 2

(* co-requisite option available only with instructor approval)

In this course we will explore issues of gender and race from a philosophical perspective. While the central vein of the class will be following the specific philosophic frameworks of post-structuralism and critical theory, we will also visit other themes such as global ethics, post-colonialism, and intersectionality. The introduction of voices of diverse and historically under-represented writers has problematized philosophies of liberation in fruitful and innovative ways. These problems, decentered and intersectional, are the focus of this course.



Calculus I (Natural Sciences)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: N/A

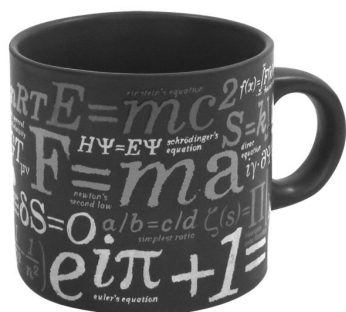
This course will begin with a review of functions, continuity and other topics covered in pre-calculus and will proceed through limits, differentiation, and integration of polynomial and transcendental functions, including the definite integral.

Reading the Qur'an (Humanities)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

A close study of the holy book of Islam, in dialogue with medieval and modern commentators.

Elective Courses



Great Equations: Their Meaning and Beauty (Humanities/ Natural Sciences)

3 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisite: NatSci 3 or equivalent

This course will investigate some of the greatest equations in Mathematics and Physics, from $1+1=2$ to the Einstein field equation with pride of place given to the most beautiful of them all, Euler's equation. Readings will generally be short and will range widely, from number theory and physics through aesthetics. Participants will receive an equations mug as part of their syllabus.



Old Norse I (Humanities/Social Sciences/Natural Sciences)

3 or 5* credits, IIT Equivalent: 3-credit, HUM/SOC free elective; 5-credit HUM 300-level

Learn the language of the Vikings! This course introduces Old Norse grammar and vocabulary through selections from the Icelandic sagas and the Prose Edda.

(* the 5 credit option will include literature in translation.)

Elective Courses



Hysteria and the Modern Psyche (Social Sciences)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level (Psychology)

This course will explore the flourishing of hysteria as a diagnostic category in 19th and early 20th century Europe and its connections to new conceptions of the self and to the emerging science of psychology. We will look at scientific, literary and artistic renderings of this phenomenon. Readings will include J.-M. Charcot, Pierre Janet, A. Binet, Sigmund Freud, Flournoy (From India to Planet Mars), Du Maurier (Trilby), Flaubert (Mme Bovary, related trial), etc.



American Women Writers (Humanities)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

In this course we will explore selected short novels by a number of great American women authors of the late 19th & 20th centuries. Through a close reading of these texts we will approach these novels from a number of perspectives. There isn't any particular "feminist agenda" or "ideological lens" through which we should study these texts; rather, a careful reading of the texts will reveal the subtlety and complexity of these works of narrative fiction in terms of themes, narrative structures, technique, voice and style. On a thematic level, these works treat a large number of topics such as a woman's sexual awakening, work, retirement and old age, loss and grief. By reading these works in chronological order, we can follow the development of narrative techniques in fiction over this time period as it moves into the modern age. Authors will include Chopin, Wharton, Cather, Hurston, McCullers, and Welty.

Registration Dates & Procedures

Registration dates for the Spring 2015 semester are:

Continuing Weekday Students: **December 9 – 12**

IIT Students **Rolling, beginning November 10**

New Weekday Students: **January 12**

To Cross-Register for Shimer Courses:

IIT students must first submit a petition to the IIT Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs 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 included in the student's home school tuition.

Comments from IIT students about Shimer

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 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.

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..

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.. 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.

Working with students from Shimer College opened me up to new experiences.

“Wisdom begins in Wonder.” - Socrates

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

The Great Books
College of Chicago

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