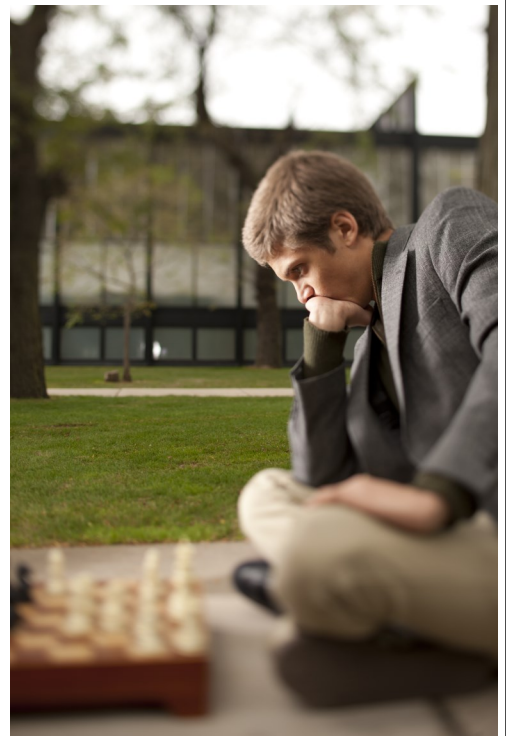


# Fall 2015 Course Schedule



# 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 15.





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## **Directory**

Registrar, Jim Ulrich: 312-235-3523  
Dean of the College, Harold Stone: 312-235-3510  
Business Office Manager, Glendalyn Booker: 312-235-3514  
Director of Financial Aid, Janet Henthorn: 312-235-3507  
Admission Office, James Bowers: 312-235-3543

# Academic Calendar 2014-2015

SHIMER COLLEGE	
Fall 2015	
Orientation and Move-in Begins	Wednesday, August 19, 2015
New Student Registration	Thursday, August 20, 2015
Fall Classes Begin	Monday, August 24, 2015
Last Day to Add/Drop with Full Tuition Refund	Friday, September 04, 2015
Labor Day - No Classes	Monday, September 07, 2015
Dean's Break Begins - No Classes	Monday, October 19, 2015
Dean's Break Ends - No Classes	Tuesday, October 20, 2015
Last Day to Withdraw	Monday, November 16, 2015
Last Day of Fall Classes - Classes Meet on a <b>Monday Schedule</b>	Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Thanksgiving Break Begins - No Classes	Wednesday, November 25, 2015
Thanksgiving Break Ends - No Classes	Friday, November 27, 2015
Writing Week Begins	Monday, November 30, 2015
Writing Week Ends	Friday, December 4, 2015
Final Conferences and Registration Begin	Monday, December 7, 2015
Final Conferences and Registration End	Thursday, December 11, 2015

SHIMER COLLEGE	
Spring 2016	
New Student Orientation Begins	Sunday, January 10, 2016
New Student Registration	Monday, January 11, 2016
Spring Classes Begin	Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Martin Luther King Day - No Classes	Monday, January 18, 2016
Last Day to Add/Drop with Full Tuition Refund	Friday, January 22, 2016
Classes on Monday Schedule	Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Dean's Break Begins - No Classes	Thursday, February 18, 2016
Dean's Break Ends - No Classes	Friday, February 19, 2016
Spring Break Begins - No Classes	Monday, March 14, 2016
Spring Break Ends - No Classes	Friday, March 18, 2016
Last Day to Withdraw	Friday, April 8, 2016
Last Day of Spring Classes	Friday, April 22, 2016
Writing Week Begins	Monday, April 25, 2016
Writing Week Ends	Friday, April 29, 2016
Commencement	Saturday, April 30, 2016
Final Conferences and Registration Begins	Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Final Conferences and Registration Ends	Friday, May 6, 2016

# Weekday Class Schedule

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:50	NS 1 A		NS 1 A		NS 1 A
	Qur'an		Qur'an		Qur'an
10:00 - 11:20	Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A
	IS 3		IS 3		
	IS 5 A	IS 5 A	IS 5 A		IS 5 A
	NS 3		NS 3		NS 3
	Soc 1 A	Latin 1 9:30 - 11:20	Soc 1 A	Latin 1 9:30 - 11:20	Soc 1 A
	Fem Theories		Fem Theories		Fem Theories
11:30 - 12:50	Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B
	IS 2 A		IS 2 A	IS 2 A	
	IS 5 B	IS 5 B	IS 5 B		IS 5 B
	NS 1 B		NS 1 B		NS 1 B
	Soc 1 B	Soc 1 B		Soc 1 B	
	Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A
	Dark Side		Dark Side		Dark Side
1:45 - 3:05	Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C
	Hum 3	Hum 3		Hum 3	
	Hum 4		Hum 4		Hum 4
	IS 2 B		IS 2 B	IS 2 B	
	Soc 1 C		Soc 1 C		Soc 1 C
	Soc 3 B	Intellectual Property	Soc 3 B	Intellectual Property	Soc 3 B
		Tolstoy			Tolstoy
3:15 - 4:35	Soc 1 D	Soc 1 D	Meetings and Events	Soc 1 D	

*Schedule Subject to the Vicissitudes of Existence*



# Course Descriptions

## Core Courses—Humanities

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### **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—Humanities

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## **Modern Currents in the Humanities (Humanities 4)**

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisites: Humanities 1, 2, and 3

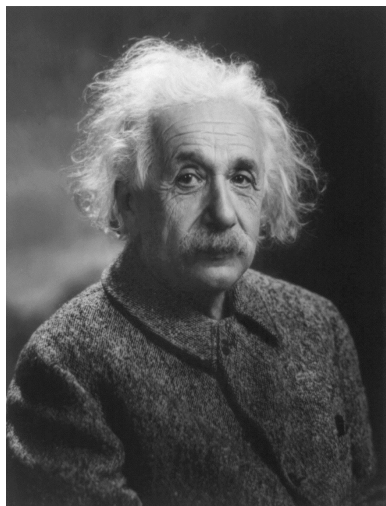
In Humanities 4 you will learn to think theoretically about art, music, literature, philosophy, and theology. Focusing on works from the European Enlightenment period to the present, you will study significant works in the history of aesthetics and literary criticism. Readings include texts by Immanuel 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.

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# Core Courses—Integrative Studies

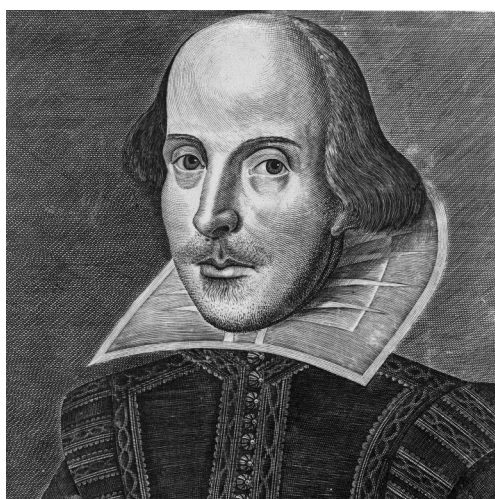
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## **Foundations of Mathematics and Logic (Integrative Studies 2)**

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.



## **Intersections of Nature and Culture (Integrative Studies 3)**

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

This class builds on the student's previous knowledge of the natural world and the human world. This course investigate the questions and experiences that produced major theories and artistic achievements in the liberal arts and sciences. Relying on classic texts, great works of the fine arts, and outstanding modern scholarship, students explore crucial concepts and artistic creations that shape our thinking about ourselves, our responses to other human beings, and our connection to the living world.



# Core Courses—Integrative Studies

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## 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.

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## Core Courses—Natural Sciences

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### **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.



### **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

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## **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)**

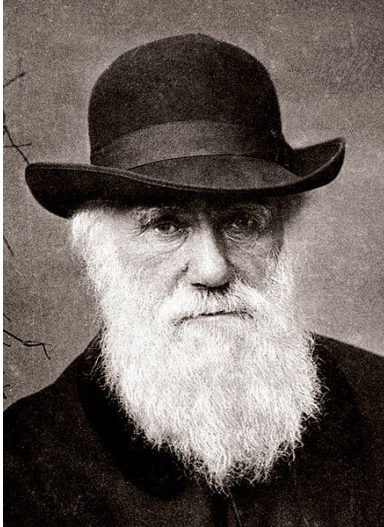
5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level

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

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## **The Dark Side of Evolution: From Social Darwinism to Sociobiology**

Daniela Barberis, Social Sciences / Natural Sciences, 5 Credits, IIT  
Equivalent: HUM 300-level or SOC 300-level

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.



## **Ethics of Intellectual Property**

Jim Ulrich, Humanities / Social Sciences, 3 credits  
IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

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.



# Elective Courses

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## **Beginning Latin I**

Harold Stone, Humanities, 5 Credits,

IIT Equivalent: Free Elective

An introduction to Latin.

No previous knowledge of Latin is expected.



## **Feminist Theories**

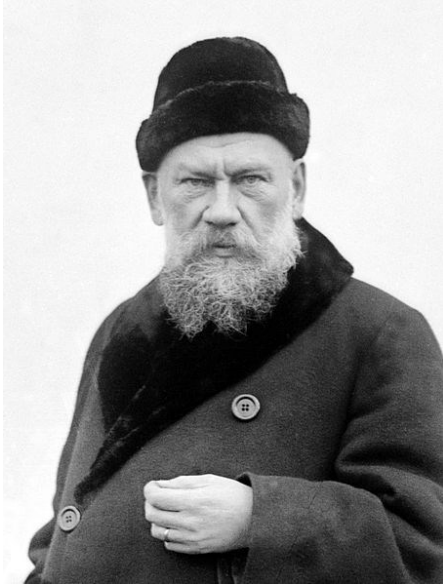
3 or 5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM/SOC 300-level

In this course we will look at how the gender roles of women and men are socially constructed. We will begin this exploration by examining the anthropological and historical roots of patriarchy. From there we will read some early documents in the feminist movement by such authors as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth. Once we have this historical context we will examine various contemporary feminist theories such as liberal, radical, psychoanalytic, poststructuralist, and postcolonial. We will compare these diverse approaches to

feminist theory and apply their respective insights to an analysis of contemporary society.

# Elective Courses

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## Tolstoy's War and Peace

5 Credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

We will study this novel in depth. We will also read some criticism on War and Peace, including selections from George Steiner and Isaiah Berlin.







At Shimer we read the original sources written by some of the greatest minds that have influenced both Eastern and Western thought. Our classes are seminar-style where we gather together around a table to discuss many different subjects—from science and philosophy, to literature and political thought. Each class is taught by one professor who participates in the discussion as a fellow learner and moderator who ensures all thoughts are treated with respect and due consideration as we endeavor to discover the richness within the text. Our discussion classes make Shimer a great place to improve your reading and communication skills—both written and verbal.

We're a very open and welcoming community: feel free to stop by to find out more and arrange to visit a class to experience this exciting style of learning.

We look forward to meeting you!

# Registration Dates & Procedures

Registration dates for the Fall 2014 semester are:

Continuing Weekday Students:      **May 5 - 9**

IIT Students      **Rolling, beginning May 9**

New Weekday Students:      **August 22**

## To Cross-Register for Shimer Courses:

**IIT students** must first submit a petition to the IIT Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs at [UGAA@IIT.edu](mailto:UGAA@IIT.edu) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Office of Admission at (312) 235-3555 or by email at [admission@shimer.edu](mailto:admission@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 classes

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.

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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.

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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..

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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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