

Spring 2016 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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Directory

Registrar, Jim Ulrich: 312-235-3523

Dean of the College, Harold Stone: 312-235-3518

Business Office Manager, Glendalyn Booker: 312-235-3514

Director of Financial Aid, Janet Henthorn: 312-235-3507

Admission Office: 312-235-3500

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 16.



Spring 2015–2016 Academic Calendar

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	Friday, April 22, 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

SHIMER COLLEGE

SPRING 2016 Course Schedule

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:50	Calculus 2		Calculus 2		Calculus 2
10:00 - 11:20	IS 2		IS 2	IS 2	
	IS 6 A	IS 6 A	IS 6 A		IS 6 A
	NS 2 B		NS 2 B		NS 2 B
	Soc 4 A	Latin 2 9:30 - 11:20	Soc 4 A	Latin 2 9:30 - 11:20	Soc 4 A
	Soc 2 B		Soc 2 B		Soc 2 B
11:30 - 12:50	Hum 2 A		Hum 2 A		Hum 2 A
	Hum 3		Hum 3	Hum 3	
	Hum 4		Hum 4		Hum 4
	IS 6 B	IS 6 B	IS 6 B		IS 6 B
	NS 2 A		NS 2 A		NS 2 A
	Soc 2 A		Soc 2 A		Soc 2 A
	Hist & Phil of Sci		Hist & Phil of Sci		Hist & Phil of Sci
1:45 - 3:05	Hum 2 B		Hum 2 B		Hum 2 B
	IS 4		IS 4		IS 4
	Foucault & Butler		Foucault & Butler		Foucault & Butler
	Soc 4 B		Soc 4 B		Soc 4 B
	Pre-Socratics	IPRO 1:50 - 4:30	Pre-Socratics	Pre-Socratics	
	NS 4		NS 4		NS 4
3:15 - 4:35			Meetings and Events		
4:45 - 6:45	Why/What We Read		Why/What We Read		

Class schedules subject to change.



Course Descriptions

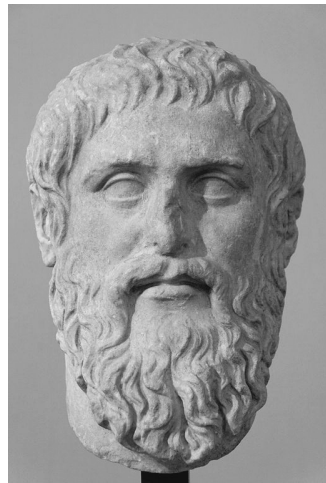
Core Courses – Humanities



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)

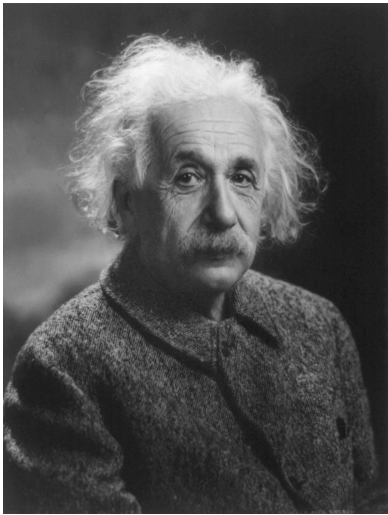
5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

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.

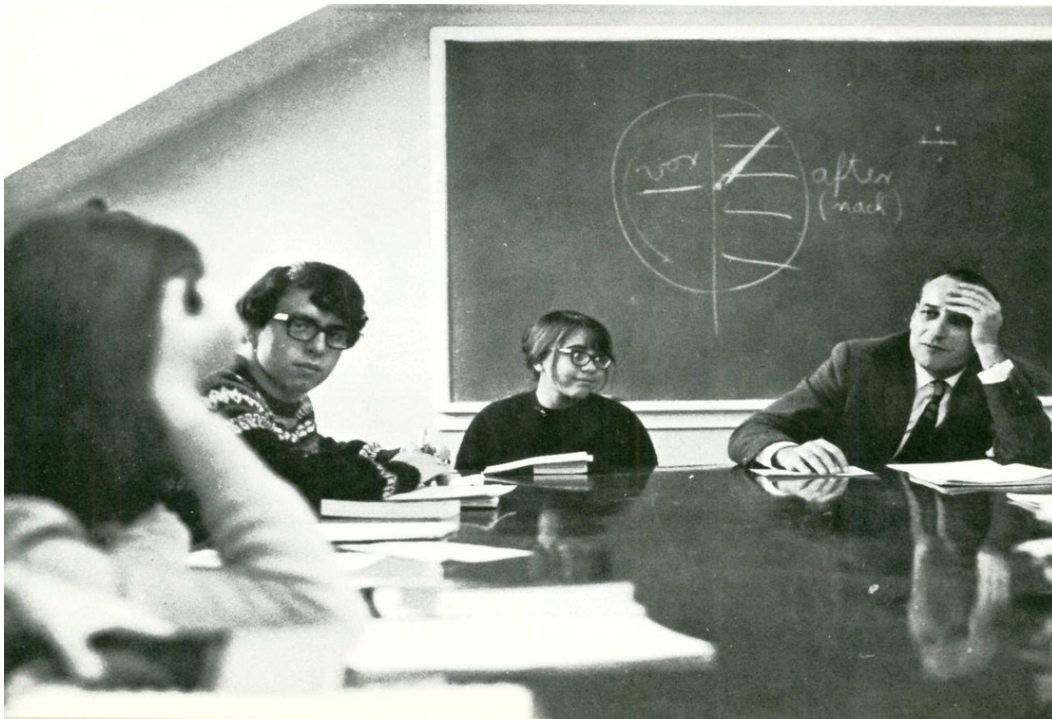
Core Courses – Integrative Studies



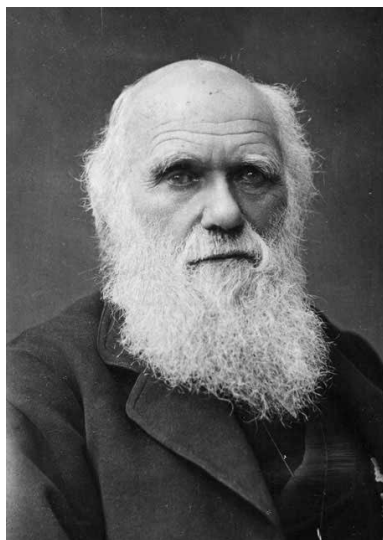
Intersections of Nature and Culture II (Integrative Studies 4)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: TBD

Designed for transfer students, this course continues the exploration of the complex interrelationships between nature and culture. We will explore specific cultural artifacts--music, visual art, and poetry--with an eye to their scientific underpinnings as well as their meaning and effect. We will also investigate broader questions of cultural difference and the various forms of cultivation that shape human beings and allow human beings to shape the natural world in turn.



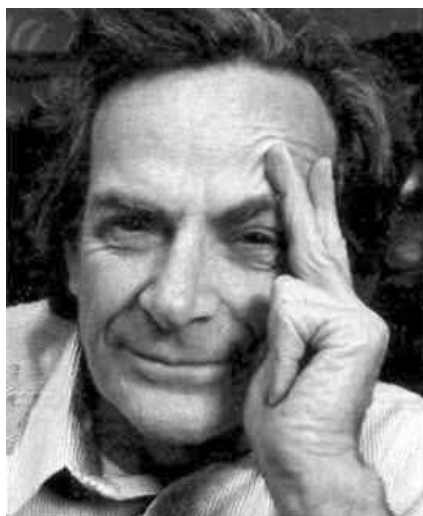
Core Courses – Natural Sciences



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



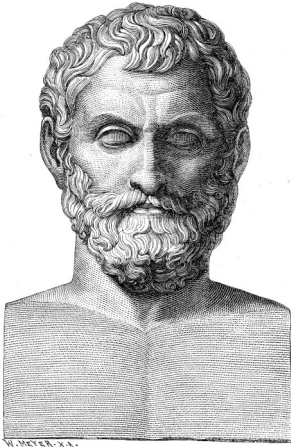
Foucault & Butler (Humanities/Social Sciences)

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 use important works by Michel Foucault and Judith Butler to guide us in a study of the complex interplay between power, subjectivity, sexuality, and ethics. We will examine how the subject, sexuality, and ethics are constructed within a complex web of history, power, and intellectual traditions. We will also examine how this socially constructed subject engages in ethical political action.



Pre-Socratics (Humanities)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: TBD

Co-requisite: Humanities 3; or by instructor approval

This course will be devoted to reconstructing and evaluating the views and influence of the major pre-Socratic philosophers. Beginning with the transition from mythic consciousness to philosophic consciousness, we will study the surviving fragments and attributions from those early thinkers in order to understand the philosophic problems they addressed. A brief examination of relevant works by Plato, Aristotle, and their contemporaries will round out the course.

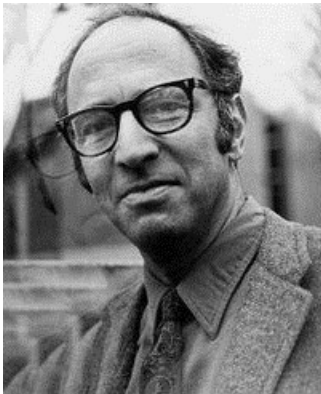
Elective Courses



Latin II (Humanities)

3 credits, IIT Equivalent: TBD

The course is based on a second century Latin novel called "The Golden Ass" or "Metamorphoses" written by an author from North Africa known as Apuleius. The novel tells the adventures of a young man, Lucius, who, as the title suggests, is transformed into a donkey. The novel contains a number of stories told by or about the characters Lucius meets. Our translation work will focus on one of them: the story of Cupid and Psyche. While we will look at artistic responses to Apuleius' story, the emphasis will be on reading the Latin text. The course is not designed for students new to Latin; students who have taken beginning Latin, Latin in high school, or have rusty Latin are encouraged to give it a try.

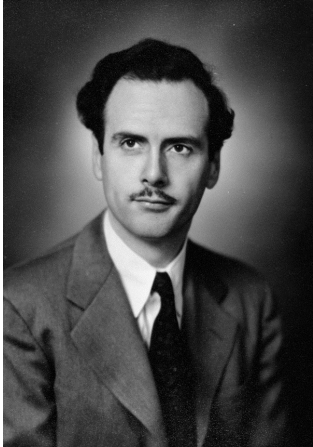


Classics in the History and Philosophy of Science (Natural Science/ Social Science)

5 credits, Daniela Barberis, IIT Equivalent: Hum 300-level

What is science? What is the character of the knowledge it offers? What are its limits? How certain is it? In this course, we will address questions such as these as we read philosophers and historians of science who examine the development of modern science and its characteristics, as both a social and an intellectual enterprise. We will also address what role science plays — and should play — in our society. Readings will include works by Kuhn, Koyre, Popper, Poincaré, and Duhem.

Elective Courses



Why (and What) Should We Read? (Humanities/Social Sciences)

3 credits, IIT Equivalent: Hum 300-level

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.



Calculus II (Natural Sciences)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: N/A

Calculus 2 will continue where Calculus 1 ended, beginning with integration of transcendental functions through advanced methods of integration then finishing with infinite series and power series.

Registration Dates & Procedures

Registration dates for the Spring 2016 semester are:

Continuing Weekday Students: **December 8 – 10**

IIT Students **Rolling, beginning November 20**

New Weekday Students: **January 11**

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.

Year
Founded

1853

Faculty to Student
Ratio

8 : 1

Classes taught by
full-time faculty

100%

Books in the Core

153

Colleges in Chicago

46

Chicago Train Lines

8

Minutes to
Downtown

15

SHIMER COLLEGE

On the Campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology

MISSION

Shimer College provides and preserves education centered on discussion of enduring questions and issues. Historically influential original sources are studied through Socratic questioning in small seminar classes, following the kind of Great Books curriculum advocated by Robert Maynard Hutchins. The core values informing education at Shimer are free inquiry, dialog, critical open-mindedness, and integration of disciplines.

SELF-GOVERNANCE

The College offers all members of its community the opportunity to participate meaningfully in deciding the future of the institution. A Shimer education demands much of both the intellect and the character of students, and prepares them for responsible citizenship and the examined life.

GREAT BOOKS

Our focus is a Great Books curriculum based entirely on primary sources. You'll never read a textbook at Shimer or take a multiple-choice quiz. We use the same method of learning in all our courses, one based on dialogue, not lecture. Instead of taking exams that ask you to regurgitate knowledge, you write essays. With the skills they acquire at Shimer, graduates pursue a wide-range of careers and advanced degrees.

3 AREAS OF STUDY

Humanities
Natural Sciences
Socials Sciences

SHARED CAMPUS

Illinois Institute of Technology
Vandercook School of Music

CONNECT WITH US

Tel: 312-235-3555
www.Shimer.edu
www.twitter.com/ShimerCollege
www.facebook.com/ShimerCollege

HOUSING

Many first-year students live on campus in one of the IIT residence halls, which include the McCormick Student Village and State Street Village. Both offer fully furnished rooms and common areas. Returning students usually live independently in nearby Bronzeville and Bridgeport

FINANCIAL AID

100% of students are offered Financial Aid. Based upon your demonstrated financial need, the Office of Financial Aid will put together a package of aid to help pay for your Shimer education. Packages may include scholarships, grants, loans, and/or Federal Work Study.

ADMISSION

You can apply year-round. You don't have to submit SAT or ACT scores. You don't need a minimum GPA. We want to know who you are. Your story is a big part of the application process. We ask you to participate in an application interview to give you a chance to talk about your interests and experiences. We let you know the decision quickly.

APPLY TO SHIMER

Visit www.shimer.edu/admissions/application to apply today!

SHIMER COLLEGE 3424 SOUTH STATE STREET CHICAGO IL 60616

Humanities I

Plato, "Ion"
Honoré de Balzac, "The Unknown Master-
piece"
Franz Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"
Rudolf Arnheim, Art and Visual Perception
Grosvenor W. Cooper, Learning to Listen
Aaron Copland, What to Listen for in Music
Joshua C. Taylor, Learning to Look
Art by Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Vincent
van Gogh,
Rembrandt van Rijn, and others
Music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig von
Beethoven,
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Social Sciences I

Sigmund Freud, New Introductory Lectures
on Psychoanalysis
Jean Piaget, The Moral Judgment of the Child
Ruth Benedict, Patterns of Culture
Lawrence Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Mor-
alization"
Nancy Chodorow, "Family Structure and
Feminine Personality"
W.E.B. DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk
Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice
Émile Durkheim, Suicide
Karl Marx, selections
Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the
Spirit of Capitalism

Natural Sciences I

Aristotle, Physics
Philip Wheelwright, The Presocratics
Lucretius, On the Nature of the Universe
Antoine Lavoisier, Elements of Chemistry
Francis Bacon, New Organon
Stanislao Cannizzaro, Sketch of a Course in
Chemical Philosophy

Selections from:

Robert Boyle, Amedeo Avogadro, Joseph Louis
Gay-Lussac, James Prescott Joule, Blaise Pascal,
Pierre Bulong, Georg Stahl, Joseph Priestly,
Benjamin Thompson, John Dalton

**Books for
Your First
Semester at
Shimer
College**

Spend a semester
studying with a tutor
at Oxford

Take classes at IIT

Learn music at
Vandercook School of
Music

100% of students
offered Financial Aid

33% of graduates
have earned Master's
degrees

10% have earned
Ph.D.'s

Since 2000: 11 grads
have started for-profit
businesses and 4 grads
have started not-for-
profit businesses



Source: Shimer College Alumni Survey 2014

**Shi
mer**

“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

3424 S State Street - 2nd Floor | Chicago, IL 60616

312.235.3500 | www.shimer.edu