

## Shimer College Spring 2014 Course Offerings

### **Poetry, Drama & Fiction (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 100-level)**



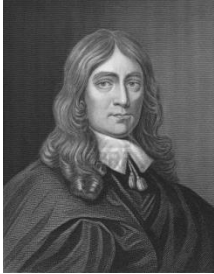
This course focuses on the literary arts. The class will work together to analyze works of poetry, drama, and prose fiction and to acquire the critical vocabulary needed to describe each one. Your perceptiveness as a reader will be enhanced as you learn to see the relationships between the formal elements 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.

### **Feminist Theories (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM/SOC 300-level; Prerequisite: Instructor Approval; Ann Dolinko)**

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, and postcolonial. We will compare these diverse approaches to feminist theory and apply their respective insights to an analysis of contemporary society.



**The Devil in Christian Thought (5 credits, No prereq., IIT Equivalent: Humanities 300-level; Adam Kotsko)**



This course will trace the evolving place of the devil in Christian theology and culture, starting from its roots in the Hebrew Bible and moving through the New Testament, the early church, the medieval period, and finally to the dawn of modernity with Milton's unforgettable portrayal of the prince of darkness. By means of a close reading of representative texts and artworks, the course will focus particularly on the political implications of this enigmatic theological figure.

**Film: Hitchcock (3 credits, IIT Equivalent: Humanities 300; Aron Dunlap)**

The perverse horror of *Psycho*, the unbearable sexual tension of *Notorious*, the brilliant criminality of *Dial M for Murder*, and the profound strangeness of *Vertigo* -- undoubtedly, the films of Alfred Hitchcock constitute one of the great artistic treasures of the 20th century. In this elective we will examine the broad range of his films, from *The Lodger* (1927) to *Marnie* (1964). We will watch and discuss one film every week, and we will also read key critical thinkers to help us recognize and articulate the more subtle aspects of Hitchcock's inimitable style.



**Critical Evaluation in the Humanities (5 credits, Prerequisites: Humanities 1, 2, and 3, or permission of instructor; IIT Equivalent: Humanities 300-level; Adam Kotsko)**



In *Critical Evaluation in the Humanities* 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.

## **The Logic of Stories and Figures (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Humanities 300-level; Stuart Patterson)**

In this course, students will examine and practice some of the basic tenets of storytelling as well as various forms of figurative writing, including metaphor, metonymy, simile, analogy, fable, allegory and even anagogy. Students will use texts in and close to the core curriculum as models of storytelling and figuration, and produce their own work accordingly in a workshop format.



## **The Western Political Tradition (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level)**



In The Western Political Tradition, 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.

## **Theories of Social Inquiry (5 credits, Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1, 2, and 3 or permission of instructor, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level)**

In Theories of Social Inquiry you will examine the conceptual framework and methodology of the various sciences. We will read and the social and political theories through different eyes. Is it the social world objectively? Old answers re-examined in the light awareness. Readings include Weber, Karl Mannheim, Michel Foucault, Paulo Freire, Sandra Harding, Genevieve Lloyd, and Clifford Geertz.



disciplines of the social discuss texts that will examine studied in previous classes actually even possible to study questions will be raised and old of greater methodological texts by Emile Durkheim, Max

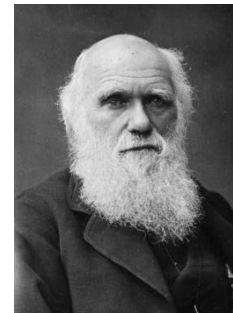
### **Environmental Studies (3 credits, IIT Equivalent: Free elective; Jim Ulrich)**



This course will cover a variety of topics such as the significant historical movements, preservation and conservation of wilderness and farmlands, impacts of governments and businesses, and sustainability as applied to biological and social systems. We will use classic, original texts to gain a broad understanding of the issues, events, and people shaping the field.

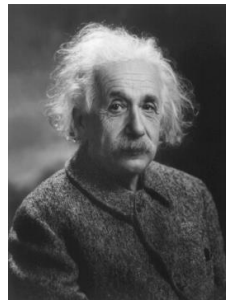
### **Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)**

Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior 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.



### **Foundations of Mathematics and Logic (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)**

This course includes a variety of geometrical systems, both ancient 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,



logical, mathematical, and and modern, that limitations of mathematics. students' abilities to think precision. Readings include Einstein, and Lobachevsky.

**Laws and Models in Chemistry (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)**



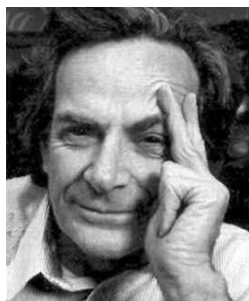
Laws and Models in Chemistry addresses the question, “What is the world made of?” The course begins with the study of the responses of Ancient Greek philosophers to that question, including Democritus’ theory of atoms, and concludes with Curie’s unnerving revelation that the “un-cuttable” atom might 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.

**Science in the Twentieth Century (5 credits, Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, 2, and 3, or permission of instructor; IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis; Bev Thurber)**

What is life? Science in the Twentieth Century will have you grappling with this enormous question on the atomic and subatomic levels, and in searching for an answer you will come to an understanding of modern quantum physics. You will examine the complexity of DNA and RNA and the causal relationship of those substances to the laws of genetics

Sciences 2. By considering the microscopic (molecular macroscopic (the universe as a yourself to end the course by the levels of knowledge and include texts by Werner



first uncovered in Natural evolutionary theory on both evolution) and the whole) level, you will prepare extending biological inquiry to human interaction. Readings Heisenberg, Albert Einstein, J.

Robert Oppenheimer, Erwin Schrodinger, Francis Crick, Richard Feynmann, Lynn Margulis, and François Jacob and Jacques Monod.

**History and Philosophy of Western Civilization (7 credits, Prerequisite: Senior Status, and/or permission of instructor; IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)**



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.

## Shimer College Course Offerings

Spring 2014



### Humanities 100 and 300 Level Courses

- Poetry, Drama & Fiction (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 100-level)
- Feminist Theories (5 credits, Prerequisites: Instructor Approval, IIT Equivalent: HUM/SOC 300-level; Ann Dolinko)
- The Devil in Christian Thought (5 credits, No prereq., IIT Equivalent: Hum 300-level; Adam Kotsko)
- Film: Hitchcock (3 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level; Aron Dunlap)
- Critical Evaluation in the Humanities (5 credits, Prerequisites: Humanities 1, 2, and 3, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)
- The Logic of Stories and Figures (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Hum 300-level; Stuart Patterson)

### Social Sciences 200 and 300 Level Courses

- The Western Political Tradition (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level)
- Feminist Theories (5 credits, Prerequisites: Instructor Approval, IIT Equivalent: HUM/SOC 300-level; Ann Dolinko)
- Theories of Social Inquiry (5 credits, Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1, 2, and 3, IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level)

### Free Electives

- Environmental Studies (3 credits, IIT Equivalent: Free elective; Jim Ulrich)

### Courses Evaluated by IIT on an Individual Basis

- Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)
- Foundations of Mathematics and Logic (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)
- Laws and Models in Chemistry (5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)
- Science in the Twentieth Century (5 credits, Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, 2, and 3, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)
- History and Philosophy of Western Civilization (7 credits, Prerequisite: Senior Status, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)

### **How to Cross-Register for a Shimer Class:**

**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](mailto:j.ulrich@shimer.edu) at (312) 235-3523 or by email at: [j.ulrich@shimer.edu](mailto:j.ulrich@shimer.edu) to complete the process. For more information visit <http://shimer.edu/offices-staff/office-of-the-registrar.php>.

*For students who are approved to cross-register at Shimer, the cost of each course will be included in the student's IIT tuition.*

**Registration for the Spring 2014 Semester Begins December 12**