

Shimer College Summer 2014 Courses

How to Cross-Register for a Shimer Class:

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. For more information visit <http://shimer.edu/offices-staff/office-of-the-registrar.php>.

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. 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 home school tuition.

Registration dates for the Summer 2014 semester are:

Continuing Students:

April 24

IIT/VCM Students:

Rolling (optimal: April 24)

IIT Equivalencies: TBD unless otherwise noted

1. Session A: Monday, May 19 - Saturday, June 28 (6 weeks)

Icelandic Sagas

3 credits, TR 12:10 - 3:25 pm



The Icelandic sagas are depictions of Viking life written in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. You will read stories about farmers, poets, warriors, and explorers and learn about the Norse discovery of North America, the medieval Icelandic legal system, and the conversion of Iceland to Christianity. Readings will include *Egil's Saga*, *Njal's Saga*, the Vinland sagas, and selected short stories.

Shakespeare on Film

3 Credits, TR 12:10 - 3:25 pm



This six-week course will focus on a selection (of five or six) of the most highly regarded film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays. We will both read the texts of the plays and view the film version together as a class. Our class time will be spent discussing what we have read and seen, and, as in all Shimer classes, all students will be expected to participate energetically in these discussions. By the end of the class students should be able to:

confidently enter into discussions of plot, narrative, and rhetoric in Shakespeare's plays; compare and contrast the plays/films with each other; and critically assess film adaptations against the texts of the plays. There will be two class sessions of three hours and ten minutes per week, one of which will be a film viewing.

IIT Equivalencies: TBD unless otherwise noted

American Women Writers: Short Fiction

3 credits, MWR 3:00 - 5:05 pm



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. The use of various kinds of interior monologue reveals much about the individual characters themselves and how they experience life. 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. This will be a discussion based-course, with three short papers.

2. Session B: Monday, June 2 - Saturday, July 26 (8 weeks)

Gödel, Escher, Bach; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

3 credits, TR 9:00 - 11:25 am



We will read Douglas Hofstadter's *Gödel, Escher, Bach* and related works. This book covers a wide range of topics in mathematics, including connections to art and music. It brings up questions of how the mind works, what it means to be conscious and intelligent, the possibilities of artificial intelligence, and the role of self-reference and formal rules in finding meaning.

IIT Equivalencies: TBD unless otherwise noted

Graphic Storytelling and Visual Narrative

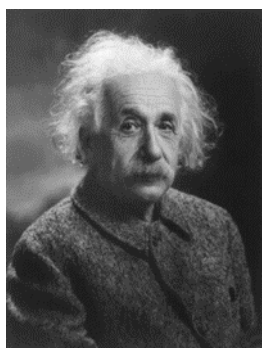
3 OR 5 Credits, MWR 6:00 - 8:40 pm



This course takes its title from the work by graphic novelist Will Eisner, which is based on a groundbreaking course he taught at the School of the Visual Arts in New York. Eisner's text will feature as one of our guides to important works of the 20th century, including Eisner's own as well as that of Herge, Robert Crumb, Marjane Satrapi and Art Spiegelmann. The course will begin, however, with a broad art historical survey of epochal works of graphic storytelling, including the cave paintings of Lascaux, the Parthenon Frieze, the Bayeux Tapestry, the stained glass windows of Chartres, the Sistine Chapel, Hiroshige's *Down the Emperor's Road* and the history of newspaper comics.

Foundations of Mathematics and Logic (Integrative Studies 2)

5 credits, TR 2:00 – 4:00 pm; 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.

The Nature of Light (Natural Sciences 3)

5 credits, TR 2:00 – 4:00 pm; IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

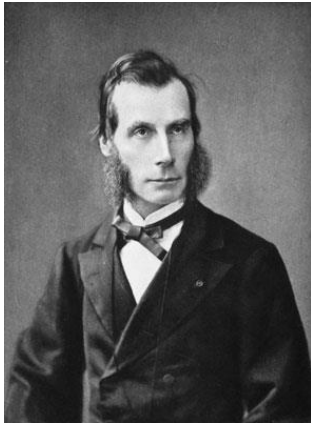


Natural Sciences 3 explores the nature of light. Students examine the development of the theories of falling bodies, gravitation, and electromagnetic forces in order to better understand optical phenomena. The investigation of physical theories includes exploration of such crucial scientific questions 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.

IIT Equivalencies: TBD unless otherwise noted

The Ancient City

3 Credits, MWR 10:30 am - 12:05 pm



The aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the great cities of the ancient Mediterranean world. These cities were the homes to a variety of peoples, the sanctuaries of gods, the location military and political force, the setting for mercantile exchange, cultural production and many other things we associate with the good life. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources students will learn how to construct a people-centered narrative of the institutions characteristic of ancient cities. This kind of investigation is often called an ethnographic study. Students will get hands-on-experience with this kind of narrative in an assignment to write an ethnographic analysis of a neighborhood known to

them.

Our primary historical focus will be on Rome and Athens, but will also study Pompeii and Herculaneum, cities buried during an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE as well as cities of the ancient Near East. Our primary questions will concern how city life represented residents' values and their particular achievements. We conclude with the fourteenth century Arabic Historian Ibn Khaldun whose *Muqaddimah* offers a theoretical framework for the rise of the ancient city. Students will write two seven page essays. Readings include Janet Abu Lughod, Aristotle, Aristophanes, Fustel de Coulanges, Herodotus, and Ibn Khaldun.

IIT Equivalencies: TBD unless otherwise noted