

Fall 2014 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 2014	
Orientation and Move-in Begins	Wednesday, August 20, 2014
New Student Registration	Friday, August 22, 2014
Fall Classes Begin	Monday, August 25, 2014
Labor Day - No Classes	Monday, September 01, 2014
Last Day to Add/Drop with Full Tuition Refund	Friday, September 05, 2014
Dean's Break Begins - No Classes	Monday, October 13, 2014
Dean's Break Ends - No Classes	Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Last Day to Withdraw	Monday, November 17, 2014
Last Day of Fall Classes - Classes Meet on a Monday Schedule	Tuesday, November 25, 2014
Thanksgiving Break Begins - No Classes	Wednesday, November 26, 2014
Thanksgiving Break Ends - No Classes	Sunday, November 30, 2014
Writing Week Begins	Monday, December 1, 2014
Writing Week Ends	Friday, December 5, 2014
Final Conferences and Registration Begin	Tuesday, December 9, 2014
Final Conferences and Registration End	Friday, December 12, 2014

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

SHIMER COLLEGE

FALL 2014 Weekday Schedule

TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:50	Nat Sci 1 A		Nat Sci 1 A	Nat Sci 1 A	
	Islam	Psychopathology 9:30 - 11:20	Islam	Psychopathology 9:30 - 11:20	Islam
10:00 - 11:20	Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A
	Nat Sci 1 C		Nat Sci 1 C		Nat Sci 1 C
	Film A - Kurosawa		Auden		Auden
	Nat Sci 3		Nat Sci 3		Nat Sci 3
	Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A
	IS 2		IS 2	IS 2	
11:30 - 12:50	Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B
	Soc 1 A		Soc 1 A		Soc 1 A
	Nat Sci 1 B		Nat Sci 1 B	Nat Sci 1 B	
	Soc 3 B		Soc 3 B		Soc 3 B
	Hum 3 A		Hum 3 A		Hum 3 A
	Film B - Kurosawa		Pre-calculus		Pre-calculus
	IS 5 A	IS 5 A	IS 5 A		IS 5 A
1:45 - 3:05	Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C
	IS 5 B	IS 5 B	IS 5 B		IS 5 B
	Soc 1 B	Soc 1 B		Soc 1 B	
	Hum 3 B		Hum 3 B		Hum 3 B
	IS 3		IS 3		IS 3
	Objectivity		Objectivity		Objectivity
3:15 - 4:35			Meetings and Events		Film A & B - Kurosawa 3:30 - 5:30
	Soc 1 C	Soc 1 C		Soc 1 C	
5:30 - 7:30	Twentieth Century			Twentieth Century	

Schedule Subject to Change



Course Descriptions

Core Courses—Humanities



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.



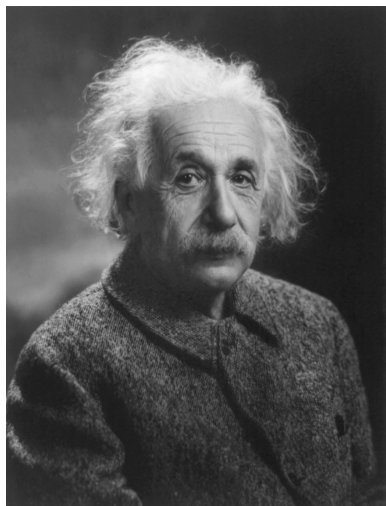
Philosophy and Theology (Humanities 3)

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—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 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.

Core Courses—Natural Sciences



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



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.



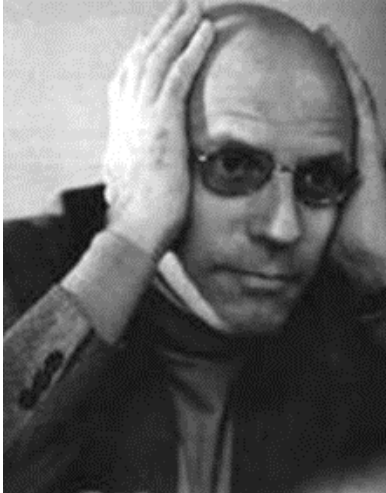
Modern Theories of Society and Politics (Social Sciences 3)

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



Abnormal Psychology

(5 credits; IIT Equivalent: SOC 300-level [the field of Psychology])

This course will explore some of the fundamental topics of this vast field called “abnormal psychology” or “psychopathology.” Some of the questions we will explore include: Is there such a thing as “mental illness” or “abnormality?” If so, how is it to be defined? Can it be measured? And, by whom? The role of the family, the role of medication, and models for treatment will be addressed in many of the readings. Readings will include essays, case studies, historical studies, and autobiographical and fictional accounts of “mental illness.”

This course is not “applied psychology.” It will not survey diagnostic categories, teach you how to become a therapist, or give you “tools to diagnose your friends.” Instead, this course will lead to a deeper understanding of the complexities of this area of psychology. The readings will include texts by Freud, Styron, Goffman, Jamison, Sacks, Foucault et. al.



Objectivity

(5 credits; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)

What does it mean to describe the world scientifically? When are we being “objective”? Objectivity has not always been a defining characteristic of science, and its history is surprisingly short—first emerging in the mid-nineteenth century. Recent work in the history of science has shown that there are different “epistemic virtues”—the qualities that made knowledge “scientific”—and that these qualities and their interrelations have changed over time. Different periods have had different regimes of knowledge, and our current notion of scientific objectivity has resulted from a layering of these various regimes. This course will chart the emergence of objectivity and look at how this concept differs from past ways of viewing the natural world and what this means for the status of our knowledge. This course will include scientific, historical and philosophical perspectives on this issue.

Elective Courses



The Films of Akira Kurosawa

(3 credits; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)

When successful film directors are asked to name their most important influence, the name they give, more often than not, is that of the Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa. Though most well-known for his thrilling samurai adventures, such as *Yojimbo* or *Sanjuro*, he was also a master of the detective story (*Stray Dog*) and the gangster tale (*Drunken Angel*). Kurosawa's retelling of *Macbeth* (*Throne of Blood*) is one of the great Shakespeare adaptations. *Seven Samurai* inspired the great Western, *The Magnificent Seven*, and George Lucas has admitted that *The Hidden Fortress* was a great influence on the original *Star Wars* trilogy. The great themes of Kurosawa's films and autobiography -- violence, loyalty, death and Japanese history and self-identity -- will be the focal point of our discussions.



Introduction to Islamic Thought

(5 credits; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)

A survey of Representative texts in Islamic theology and philosophy from Muhammad to the present day. Major themes will include scriptural interpretation, legal reasoning, the influence of Aristotle on medieval Islamic thought, and mysticism.

Elective Courses



W.H. Auden: Poetry, Prose and Music

(3 or 5 credits; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)

Among 20th century literary figures, W.H. Auden stands out for the range of his writing. This class will cover all the different forms in which Auden excelled, in both poetry and prose, from plays to libretti, song lyrics to long-form poems, even a television documentary. Our focus throughout will be on close readings of his verse, though we will also discuss the ideas found in his prose pieces. Through frequent focus papers students will become comfortable using the technical language appropriate to the analysis of poetry. Students taking this class for five credits will be required to write a 12-15 page term paper.



Looking Back at the Twentieth Century

(5 credits; IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level)

Interdisciplinary, multi-media cultural history of the Twentieth Century in the West with attention to the transitions from the late Nineteenth Century to Modernism and from Modernism to Post-modernism.



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 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 Office of Admission at (312) 235-3555 or by email at 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.

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

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

312.235.3500 | www.shimer.edu