

Shimer College Fall 2014 Course Offerings



Shimer
The Great Books
College of Chicago

To register: 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.

Registration is on a rolling basis. Classes begin on Monday, August 25.

Email or stop by **3424 S. State St., 2nd Floor, Room 214** for more information!

(See class schedule on last page.)



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 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.

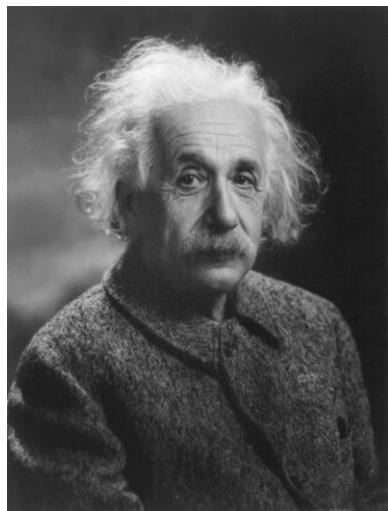


Philosophy and Theology (Humanities 3)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level

Prerequisites: Humanities 1 and 2

Humanities 3 introduces students to philosophy, theology, and Bible. Concentrating on significant texts in each discipline from antiquity until the early nineteenth century, the course investigates the distinctive methods of approach, their use of logic and narrative, the problems they seek to solve. Readings include texts by Plato, biblical excerpts, Augustine, Aquinas, Teresa of Avila, Pascal, Locke, and Kierkegaard.



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.



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 “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.



The Nature of Light (Natural Sciences 3)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis

Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, Integrative Studies 2, and 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.



Society, Culture, and Personality (Social Sciences 1)

5 credits, IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level

Social Sciences 1 introduces students to major disciplines within 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.

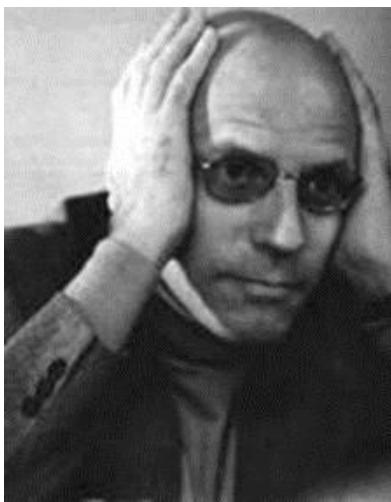


Modern Theories of Society and Politics (Social Sciences 3)

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.

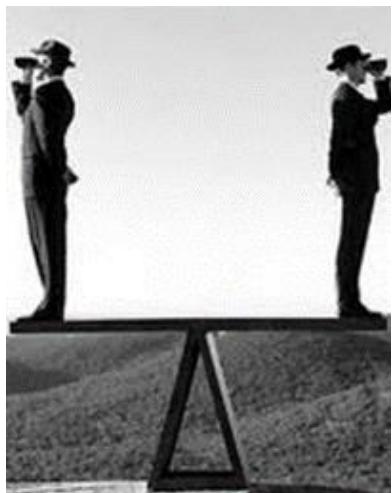


Abnormal Psychology

(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, 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.



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)

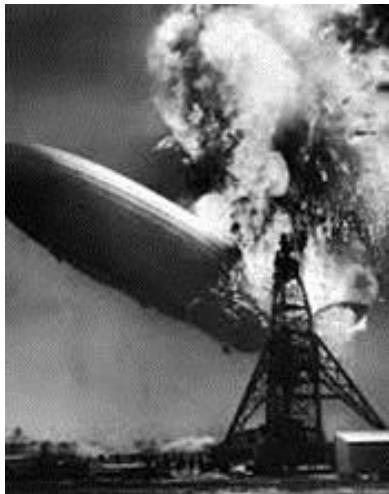
A survey of Representative texts in Islamic theology and philosophy from Muhammad to the present day. Major themes will include scriptural interpretation, legal reasoning, the influence of Aristotle medieval Islamic thought, and mysticism.



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.

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
1:45 - 3:05	IS 5 A	IS 5 A	IS 5 A		IS 5 A
	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
3:15 - 4:35	Objectivity		Objectivity		Objectivity
			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	
	Ann	Aron	Stuart	David	Barbara
	Adam	Bev	Daniela	JD	Albert

