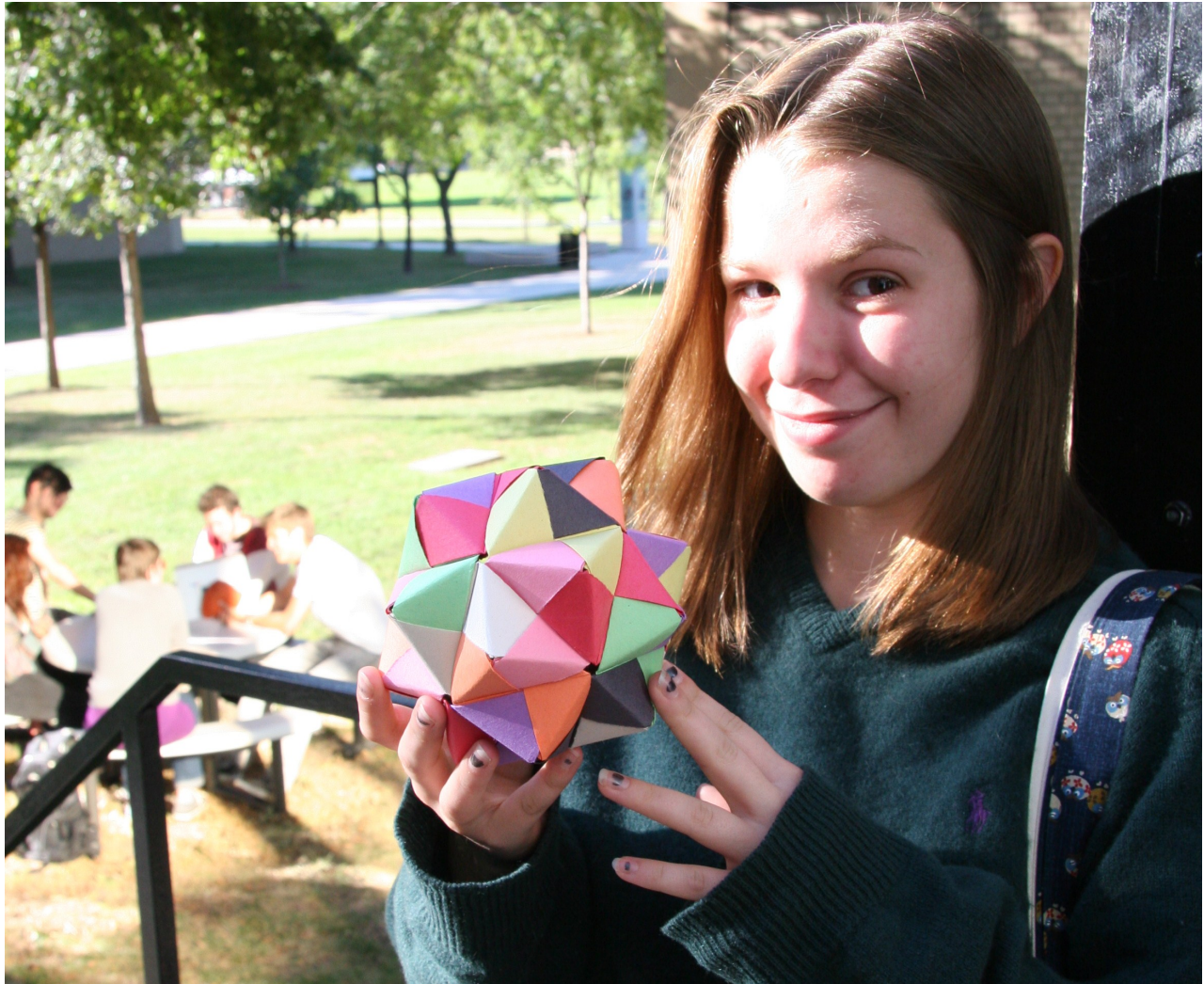


Fall 2011 Course Schedule



Shimer

The Great Books
College of Chicago

Comments from IIT students about Shimer classes

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.

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. I believe that if Shimer classes were required for IIT students (and if the current standards were enforced) that the vast majority of IIT students would struggle and ultimately fail. (Also, Shimer is much smaller than IIT and there is not the capacity for a large number of students- furthermore, it would be like a wrecking ball to the Shimerian ethos and traditions to enable them to accommodate a drastically larger number of students.)

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.



Contents

About Shimer College	4
Class Schedules	5
Shimer's Weekend Program	6
<i>Course Descriptions</i>	
<u>Core Courses</u>	
Humanities	7
Integrative Studies	8
Natural Sciences	9
Social Sciences	10
<u>Elective Courses</u>	
Chuang Tzu	11
Feminist Theories	11
Films of Stanley Kubrick	11
Fundamentals of Acting	11
Gödel, Escher, Bach	12
History and Principles of Economics	12
Latin	12
Registration Dates & Procedures	13
Academic Calendar	14

Directory

Registrar/Assistant Dean, Jim Ulrich: 312-235-3523

Dean of the College, David Shiner 312-235-3538

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

Financial Aid Manager, Janet Henthorn: 312-235-3507

Admission Office: (312) 235-3500

About Shimer College

Shimer College is a 4-year liberal arts college located on the Chicago campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology.

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 *Through a Window*, 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 IIT and VanderCook College of Music 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 13.





Class Schedule—Fall 2011

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
TIME					
9:15 - 11:20		IS2			IS2
10:00 - 11:20	Soc 1 A		Soc 1 A	Soc 1 A	
	Nat Sci 1 A	Nat Sci 1 A		Nat Sci 1 A	
	Nat Sci 1 B		Nat Sci 1 B	Nat Sci 1 B	
	Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A		Soc 3 A
	IS 5 A	IS 5 A	IS 5 A		IS 5 A
11:30 - 12:50	Hum 1 A		Hum 1 A	Hum 1 A	
	Soc 1 B	Math Workshop	Soc 1 B	Soc 1 B	Math Workshop
		Nat Sci 1 C		Nat Sci 1 C	Nat Sci 1 C
	Hum 3 A		Hum 3 A	Hum 3 A	
	Nat Sci 3 A	Nat Sci 3 A		Nat Sci 3 A	
	Fem Theories A		Fem Theories A		Fem Theories A
	IS 5 B	IS 5 B	IS 5 B		IS 5 B
1:45 - 3:05	Hum 1 B		Hum 1 B	Hum 1 B	Math Tutoring
	Nat Sci 2 A		Nat Sci 2 A	Nat Sci 2 A	
	Soc 1 C		Soc 1 C	Soc 1 C	
				Film - Kubrick	
	Gödel Esc Bach A		Gödel Esc Bach A	Gödel Esc Bach A	
	Gödel Esc Bach B		Gödel Esc Bach B		
	Fem Theories B		Fem Theories B		Fem Theories B
3:15 - 4:35	Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C		Hum 1 C
	Hum 3 B		Hum 3 B	Hum 3 B	
	Soc 1 D		Soc 1 D	Soc 1 D	
	Nat Sci 3 B		Nat Sci 3 B	Nat Sci 3 B	
	Soc 1 E		Soc 1 E	Soc 1 E	
	Latin		Latin	Latin	
4:45 - 6:05	Nat Sci 2 B		Nat Sci 2 B	Nat Sci 2 B	
	Soc 3 B		Soc 3 B	Soc 3 B	
	Chuang Tzu		Chuang Tzu		
	Economics	Film Screening	Economics	Economics	
6:30 - 8:15	Acting		Acting		



Shimer's Weekend Program

Shimer College offers weekend courses that meet every third weekend during the semester.

Meeting dates for the Fall 2011 semester are as follows:

Weekend Meeting #1	Aug 20-21
Weekend Meeting #2	Sept 10-11
Weekend Meeting #3	Oct 1-2
Weekend Meeting #4	Oct 22-23
Weekend Meeting #5	Nov 12-13
Weekend Meeting #6	Dec 3-4
Weekend Meeting #7	Dec 17-18

Saturday		
8:30 - 9:45	Humanities 1	Natural Sciences 3
9:55 - 11:10	Natural Sciences 1	Humanities 3
11:20 - 12:35	Social Sciences 1	Social Sciences 3
Lunch		
1:30 - 2:45	Humanities 1	Natural Sciences 3
2:55 - 4:10	Natural Sciences 1	Humanities 3
4:20 - 5:35	Social Sciences 1	Social Sciences 3
5:45 - 7:00	Writing Workshop	
Sunday		
11:20 - 12:35	Humanities 1	Natural Sciences 3
Lunch		
1:15 - 2:30	Natural Sciences 1	Humanities 3
2:40 - 3:55	Social Sciences 1	Social Sciences 3



Course Descriptions

Core Courses—Humanities

Humanities 1 - Art & Music

5 Credits (IIT Equivalent: HUM 100-level)

In this first course in the Humanities sequence, you will learn about the elements and forms of the musical and visual arts while developing active listening and viewing skills. Through conversation about famous art works, pieces of music, and various texts that deal with art and creativity, you will become more attentive to and more articulate about art.

Readings include texts by Plato, Balzac, Kafka, Steinberg, and Alberti.

Humanities 3 - Philosophy & Theology

5 Credits

Philosophy and theology are formally introduced in this third Humanities course. You will build on the reading skills you developed in Humanities 2 as you delve into some of the Western tradition's most influential and significant texts, ranging historically from the ancient Greeks through the 17th century. Through close reading and collaborative analysis, you will learn to understand these texts on their own terms and to situate them within your own developing intellectual framework.

Readings include texts by Plato, St. Augustine, St. Teresa, and Descartes in addition to the Bible.

(Prerequisite: Humanities 1 and 2)

Core Courses—Integrative Studies

Integrative Studies 2 - The Nature and Creation of Mathematics

5 Credits (IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)

Integrative Studies 2 is devoted to the development of an understanding and appreciation of mathematics. The student studies the axiomatic method by examining various mathematical and geometrical systems throughout written history. Through involvement in such mathematics the student learns accuracy in the use of terms, rigor in reasoning, and precision in expression. The development of these basic intellectual skills is another principal aim of the course.

Readings include texts by Euclid, Aristotle, Descartes, Einstein, and Lobachevski.

Integrative Studies 5 - History and Philosophy of Western Civilization

8 credits

Integrative Studies 5 & 6 are designed as a unified, full-year sequence to be taken in the student's last full year of residence. Further, they are intended to emphasize the essential unity of the Shimer curriculum. The works in this sequence are chosen for their historical significance and their potential for integrative analysis. They are arranged chronologically in order to demonstrate their historical relationship to one another.

Readings include works of unknown authorship like Innana, the Epic of Gilgamesh, and the Bible, in addition to texts by Homer, Hesiod, Sappho, Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, Thucydides, Virgil, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Dante.

(Prerequisite: Senior Status)

Core Courses—Natural Sciences

Natural Sciences 1 - The Laws and Models in Chemistry

5 Credits (IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)

In Natural Sciences 1 you will learn to think and reason about matter in ways that scientists have done in various historical periods. Beginning with the Ancient Greek philosophers, you will puzzle over why Thales believed that matter is composed of a single element while Empedocles understood there to be four. After surveying ancient and modern ways of thinking about matter, you will consider the logic behind our contemporary model. Readings also include texts by Aristotle, Lucretius, Pascal, Bacon, Lavoisier, and Cannizzaro.

Natural Sciences 2 - Evolution, Genetics and Animal Behavior

5 Credits (IIT Equivalent: Evaluated on individual basis)

Natural Sciences 2 explores the interaction amongst 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 a groundwork for this inquiry into biological organization. Readings include texts by Aristotle, Lamarck, Darwin, Mendel, and Goodall.

Natural Sciences 3 - Light, Motion and Scientific Explanation

5 Credits

Within the context of the physical sciences, this course explores the nature of scientific explanation. We examine the development of the theories of falling bodies, gravitation, light, electromagnetic forces, and relativity. The investigation of physical theories leads the student to attempt to answer such crucial scientific questions as these: What phenomena need to be explained? How are they explained? What constitutes a satisfactory explanation? What is the nature of physical reality?

(Prerequisite: Natural Sciences 1 and Integrative Studies 2)

Core Courses—Social Sciences

Social Sciences 1 - Society, Culture, and Personality

5 Credits (IIT Equivalent: SOC 200-level)

In the first course of the social sciences sequence, you will read about the relationship between human beings and society from a variety of perspectives. How do cultural norms about gender and race, for example, shape who we are? The class will discuss foundational works in the fields of anthropology, psychology, and sociology, and will explore topics ranging from the notion of the self to the question of human freedom.

Readings include texts by Mead, Benedict, Freud, Marx, DuBois, and Durkheim.

Social Sciences 3 - Modern Theories of State and Society

5 Credits

In this course you will learn about influential movements in political and social thought in the 19th and 20th centuries. Discussions will focus on approaches to understanding the social, economic, and political structure of the modern world, and you will be able to explore the usefulness of these approaches in analyzing contemporary political reality.

Readings include texts by de Tocqueville, Hegel, Marx, Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Arendt.

(Prerequisite: Social Sciences 1 and 2)

Elective Courses

Chuang Tzu

3 Credits, Humanities or Social Sciences (IIT Equivalent: TBD)

The “other” great Taoist classic, the *Chuang Tzu*, is an engrossing scrapbook of essays, arguments, reflections, stories, and jokes. The inner core, going back to the 4th century BCE, confronts us with themes like the value of spontaneity, the perspectivity built into human knowing, the natural versus the artificial, death, mutilation (legal punishment in ancient China), and on and on. Although less known in the West than the *Tao Te Ching*, the *Chuang Tzu* might well be the most fascinating and fun philosophy

Feminist Theories

3 or 5 credits, Humanities or Social Sciences (IIT Equivalent: HUM 300-level or SOC 300-level)

In this course we will study 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. We will then read some early documents in the feminist movement, after which we will examine various contemporary feminist theories. We will compare diverse approaches and apply their respective insights to an analysis of contemporary society.

The Films of Stanley Kubrick

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

From his youthful start as a photographer at *Look* Magazine to his death just days after submitting a final cut of *Eyes Wide Shut*, Stanley Kubrick remained the quintessential auteur of his period. In addition to weekly screenings we'll study critical essays on his work, read two of the novels Kubrick used as source material for his screenplays, and explore his technological advances in special effects and camera art – advances which changed the look of cinema.

Fundamentals of Acting

3 Credits, Humanities (IIT Equivalent: TBD)

This acting course is designed for students who wish to explore acting methodology. Practical exercises in both scripted and improvisational work will be stressed. The class will culminate in a presentation of several two-character scenes. Our scene work will be drawn from a variety of contemporary writers including Harold Pinter, Edward Albee, Tom Stoppard, Samuel Beckett, David Mamet, Brett Neveu, Craig Wright, and Sarah Ruhl.

Elective Courses

Gödel, Escher, Bach

3 or 5 Credits, Humanities or Natural Sciences (IIT Equivalent: TBD)

We will study Douglas Hofstadter's book *Gödel, Escher, Bach*. This book covers a wide range of topics in mathematics, including connections to art and music. It leads to questions of how the mind (and consciousness) works, the possibilities of artificial intelligence, and the role of self-reference and formal rules in finding meaning. Related works will also be studied. Students taking the course for 5 credits will meet three times each week; those taking it for 3 credits will meet twice each week.

History and Principles of Economics

5 Credits, Social Sciences (IIT Equivalent: TBD)

This course is designed to introduce the class members to major thinkers and themes in political economy. In addition to the study of classic texts in economics, we will make extensive use of Alfred Marshall's classic "Principles of Economics" as an introduction to modern tools of "micro" economic analysis. Students will write a number of smaller response pieces and two major papers through the course, one of which will develop research skills.

Latin I

5 Credits, Humanities (IIT Equivalent: Free Elective)

Latin I is a beginning course which will teach the student to read Latin prose and poetry. We will cover the basics of Latin grammar. No previous experience with Latin is expected. Grading will be based on student participation and preparation of daily assignments.

Registration Dates & Procedures

Registration dates for the Fall 2011 semester are:

Continuing Weekday Students: **May 14**

Continuing Weekend Students: **May 16**

New Weekday Students: **August 25**

New Weekend Students: **Rolling**

IIT and VanderCook Students: **Rolling**

Cross-Registration for Shimer, IIT, and VanderCook Courses

For IIT and VanderCook Students

Tuition for all Shimer courses is covered by IIT or VanderCook tuition.

To cross-register for Shimer courses, **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.

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.

Shimer students interested in taking IIT or VanderCook courses must receive approval from the Shimer Dean's Office. If approval is granted, students must complete an application with the IIT Office of Undergraduate Admission and provide a Shimer transcript. Shimer students who have taken an IIT course previously can register for additional IIT courses on-line using a Banner ID after receiving Dean's Office approval and informing the Shimer Registrar of their IIT course(s). Contact IIT Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs in 101 Main Bldg if you need assistance adding a class.

Please call Jim Ulrich, Shimer's Registrar, at (312) 235-3523 or email him at j.ulrich@shimer.edu for more information.

Academic Calendar 2011-2012

<u>Weekday Program</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>
Registration for Continuing Students	F May 6	F Dec 16
New Students Arrive, Orientation Begins	Sa Aug 20	Th Jan 12
Registration for New Students	Su Aug 21	F Jan 13
MLK Day – no classes	-	M Jan 16
Classes Begin	Th Aug 25	Tu Jan 17* (*Monday Class Schedule)
Labor Day – no classes	M Sept 5	-
Dean’s Break Begins – no classes	Th Oct 6	Sa Feb 18
Dean’s Break Ends, Classes Resume	M Oct 10	Tu Feb 21
Holiday Break Begins – no classes	Tu Nov 22	W Mar 21
Holiday Break Ends, Classes Resume	M Nov 28	M Mar 26
Classes End, Writing Week Begins	Fr Dec 2	F Apr 20
Writing Week Ends	Fr Dec 9	F Apr 29
Final Conferences Begin	Tu Dec 13	Tu May 1
Final Conferences End; Registration	Fr Dec 16	F May 4
Last Day to Add/Drop (100% tuition refund)	M Sept 12	M Feb 6
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	F Nov 18	F Apr 6

<u>Weekend Program</u>	<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>
Registration for Continuing Students	Su May 15	Su Dec 18
Registration for New Students	Rolling	Rolling
Weekend Meeting #1	Aug 20-21	Jan 14-15
Weekend Meeting #2	Sept 10-11	Feb 4-5
Weekend Meeting #3	Oct 1-2	Feb 25-26
Weekend Meeting #4	Oct 22-23	Mar 17-18
Weekend Meeting #5	Nov 12-13	Mar 31-Apr 1
Weekend Meeting #6	Dec 3-4	Apr 21-22
Weekend Meeting #7	Dec 17-18	May 12-13
Writing Weekend	(none)	May 26-27
Last Day to Add/Drop (100% tuition refund)	M Sept 12	M Feb 6
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	Sa Dec 3	Sa April 21

Convocation: Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Commencement: Saturday, May 5, 2012

Comments from IIT students about Shimer classes

Eileen is a great teacher and got me started on my path of formal acting training. Before her class, I had just been involved in 33rd and had no formal training, but now I've taken several acting classes here at Berkeley, where I am studying now, and what she taught me is still relevant. I remember one of the best aspects of taking a Shimer class, other than meeting all of you, was the difference in class structure. Much different from all of my other classes at IIT, we called our professor by her first name, we discussed relevant subjects, and most importantly, the structure wasn't controlled by a professor with a set of notes lecturing at a blackboard until class was over, but instead the class was fluid and flexible and we learned what we were interested in learning that day, week and semester. This is not to say, of course, that the class was entirely structureless and chaotic. Eileen is very knowledgeable on the subject and helped to steer the discussions and our learning toward an area that would be most beneficial to the class and to each of us individually. I really enjoyed my Shimer class and highly recommend any and all IIT students to broaden themselves by taking a Shimer class.

I had a great experience at Shimer. I took a course on bioethics, not really knowing what to expect from the Shimer students or teachers. The class met every third Saturday for two two hour sessions, which was not too time demanding and did not conflict with any IIT course I was taking. As far as the class goes, I took the course with a friend from iit and the class size was about eight. The class was discussion based, with assigned readings and group discussion. Participation was the main category for grading, although there was a final paper which comprised the rest of the grade. The small class size and close teacher-student relationship allowed for many interesting and lengthy discussions on bioethics and various topics related to bioethics and the readings. The teacher was very hands on. but did not guide the discussions, it was purely guided by the flow of conversation of the students. Although, every once and a while, the teacher had to bring the group back to the topic of discussion. I would definitely recommend taking a Shimer course on a subject that peaks ones interest. You will meet new people and discover a different form of class structure from that of normal IIT courses.

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.

Yes, I did take a class at Shimer College. 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.

*it's about **LEARNING** and a **PASSION** for it.*

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