



**Shimer**  
The Great Books  
College of Chicago

# ACADEMIC CATALOG 2013-2015



3424 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60616 • 312.235.3500 • [www.shimer.edu](http://www.shimer.edu)

## Table of Contents

<b>INFORMATION ABOUT SHIMER COLLEGE</b> .....	3
Mission Statement.....	3
Policy of Non-Discrimination .....	3
Ethics Statement.....	4
Accreditation Status .....	4
Memberships.....	4
College Governance.....	4
History and Current Campus .....	7
Campus Resources.....	7
<b>ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS &amp; PROCEDURES</b> .....	10
General Requirements.....	10
Diagnostic and Placement Examinations.....	10
Transfer.....	11
Early Enrollment .....	11
Concurrent Enrollment.....	11
B.A. to J.D. Program – Shimer and Chicago-Kent College of Law .....	12
Special Students.....	12
Course Audit .....	12
Senior Audit Option .....	12
Re-Admission.....	13
<b>TUITION, FEES, &amp; FINANCIAL AID</b> .....	14
Financial Aid.....	14
<b>ACADEMIC PROGRAMS</b> .....	15
Degrees.....	15
Academic Advising.....	17
Cross Registration .....	17
Study Abroad .....	17
Writing Program .....	18
<b>CORE CURRICULUM &amp; COURSE DESCRIPTIONS</b> .....	20
Core Curriculum.....	20
Course Numbering System .....	21
The Humanities.....	22
The Natural Sciences .....	24
The Social Sciences .....	26
Basic Integrative Studies.....	28
Advanced Integrative Studies.....	28
Electives.....	29
<b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b> .....	32

## INFORMATION ABOUT SHIMER COLLEGE

This catalog is designed to orient and guide students through their educational experience at Shimer College. Students are responsible for adhering to all rules, policies, and procedures of Shimer found in this catalog and other institutional documents. Where appropriate, the student may be referred to another document or publication for further information.

All statements in this Catalog reflect the approved policies of Shimer College as of July 1, 2013. Shimer College reserves the right to change any of the statements, procedures, regulations, fees, or conditions contained herein without prior notice. All changes will be duly published in electronic or other form. Changes to Shimer's policies and procedures affect all students who have not yet graduated. Neither the provisions of this catalog nor the acceptance of students to Shimer College through the admission, enrollment, and registration processes constitute a contract or an offer of a contract. Clarification of matters contained in this catalog can be obtained from the Dean of the College or another authorized individual.

When used in this document:

- "Shimer", "the college", or "institution" refers to Shimer College.
- "Student" includes all persons taking courses from Shimer College, whether fulltime or part-time. Persons who are not officially enrolled for a particular term and have not graduated, but who have a continuing relationship with the school, are considered "students" under this definition.
- "School Official" is any administrator, faculty member, staff member, or other authorized individual of Shimer College.
- "Policies" are the written regulations of Shimer College as found in, but not limited to, the Academic Catalog, Student Handbook, and official school websites.
- "IIT" refers to the Illinois Institute of Technology, which is the host campus for Shimer College.

### Mission Statement

Shimer College provides and preserves education centered on discussion of enduring questions and issues. Historically influential original sources are studied through Socratic questioning in small seminar classes, following the kind of Great Books curriculum advocated by Robert Maynard Hutchins. The core values of informing education at Shimer are free inquiry, dialog, critical open-mindedness and integration of disciplines. The College offers all members of its community the opportunity to participate meaningfully in deciding the future of the institution. A Shimer education demands much of both the intellect and the character of students, and prepares them for responsible citizenship and the examined life.

### Policy of Non-Discrimination

Shimer College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. The College does not discriminate in admittance of students, granting of financial aid, or hiring and retention of faculty, administrative staff, and other employees on the basis of age, race, religion, sex, marital status, gender identification/expression, national origin, color, sexual orientation, disability, military status, citizenship status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Shimer College is firmly committed to the development and maintenance of equal opportunity and diversity in all aspects of the College.

## Ethics Statement

Shimer College is a dialogical, self-governing academic community committed to the intellectual and personal development of each of its members. Members of this community are entitled to expect that all Shimerians will

- Act responsibly, practicing integrity both inside and outside the classroom
- Demonstrate respect for and sensitivity to the ideas, feelings, and needs of others
- Seek dialog with those with whom we are in serious conflict
- Deal honestly with ourselves and all other members of the Shimer community to the best of our ability

The aforementioned principles prohibit lying, cheating, stealing, abuse, and all other violations of the persons, offices, and policies of Shimer College.

*Approved by the Assembly of Shimer College, November 20, 1994*

## Accreditation Status

Shimer College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 230 South LaSalle St. Suite 750, Chicago, IL. Phone: 312-263-0456, 1-800-621-7440. Fax: 312-263-7462. Email address: [www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org](http://www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org).

## Memberships

Shimer College is a member of the following organizations:

- Association of Core Texts and Courses (ACTC)
- Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
- Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities (FIICU)
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)

## College Governance

Shimer College is a not-for-profit organization operating under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Board of Trustees of Shimer College is the ultimate legal authority of the College. The Board delegates to the President of the College such authority as it deems desirable. It also delegates certain authority to the faculty as a body, to the Dean of the College as head of the faculty, and to the Assembly and its committees. It may not, however, delegate responsibility and remains ultimately responsible not only for its own acts but also for the legal entity which, as the law states, can “sue and be sued” in the name of Shimer College. Accordingly, any delegation of powers continues only so long as the Board of Trustees is satisfied that those to whom power is delegated are exercising it responsibly and equitably. A list of the names of the governing board of Shimer College can be found on the college website.

The following documents are available for inspection upon request from the Business Office:

- Governance Documents
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- IRS 990 Form
- Financial Statements

## Assembly

As a function of its mission to promote active citizenship, Shimer College is devoted to internal self-governance to an extent that is rare among institutions of higher education. Many internal college matters are handled by the faculty, students, and staff working together within a structure of committees under the umbrella of the “committee of the whole” known as the Assembly.

The Assembly is the broadest governance structure of Shimer: everyone at the College is welcome to participate in its meetings and, if elected, on its committees. Students are represented on almost every major committee of the Assembly, and several students serve as voting members of the Board of Trustees. While the Board has ultimate legal authority over the College, the Assembly and its committees serve in important roles both internally and as advisors to the Board on matters of college-wide significance.

The Assembly is a democratic body. The form and major responsibilities of the Assembly are symbolic of Shimer’s commitment to the pursuit of truth and intellectual honesty. The Assembly thus serves to nurture the spirit of true dialog as well as the habits of public responsibility.

## Faculty

**Daniela Barberis**, Assistant Professor of History of Science and Social Sciences  
Ph.D. Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, University of Chicago  
M.A. Social Anthropology, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro  
B.A. Social Anthropology, Universidade Estadual de Campinas

**Eileen Powers Buchanan**, Professor of Humanities  
M.A., Theatre (Scene Design), Northwestern University  
B.S., Theatre (Acting and Directing), magna cum laude, Northwestern University

**Ann Dolinko**, Professor of Philosophy and Social Sciences  
Ph.D., Philosophy, with distinction, Loyola University  
M.A., Philosophy, Loyola University  
B.A., Philosophy and Psychology, Lake Forest College

**James Donovan**, Professor of Natural Sciences  
Ph.D., Biophysics and Theoretical Biology, University of Chicago  
B.S., Chemistry, University of Notre Dame

**Aron Dunlap**, Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts  
Ph.D., Religion, Temple University  
B.A., Cultural Poetics, Seattle Pacific University  
B.A., Music (emphasis in violin performance), Seattle Pacific University

**Albert Bades Fernandez**, Professor of Cultural History and Humanities  
Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Columbia University  
M. Phil., English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University  
M.A., English and Comparative Literature, high honors, Columbia University

**Ron Kidd**, Adjunct Professor of Eastern Studies  
Auditeur libre, Paris  
Graduate, Crosier House of Studies, Catholic Seminary  
Bachelier en philosophie, licence en philosophie, Institute Superior de Philosophie, University of Louvain, Belgium

**Adam Kotsko**, Assistant Professor of Humanities  
Ph.D., Theology, Ethics, and Culture, Chicago Theological Seminary  
M.A., Religious Studies, Chicago Theological Seminary  
B.A., English, Olivet Nazarene University

**Stuart Patterson**, Associate Professor of Liberal Arts  
Ph.D., Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
B.A., Liberal Arts (Honors), St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM

**David Shiner**, Professor of Humanities and the History of Ideas  
Ph.D., Philosophy, California Miramar University  
B.A., Philosophy, cum laude, Temple University

**Barbara S. Stone**, Professor of German and Humanities  
Ph.D., German Language and Literature, Northwestern University  
M.A., German Language and Literature, Northwestern University  
B.A., Psychology, Distinction in Psychology, Honors in Psychology, cum laude, University of Massachusetts

**Harold S. Stone**, Professor of History and Humanities  
Ph.D., Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago  
M.A., History, University of Chicago  
B.A., St. John's College, Annapolis, MD

**Beverly A. Thurber**, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Natural Sciences  
Ph.D., Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Cornell University  
M.Ph., Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge  
B.S., Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
B.S., Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Jim Ulrich**, Adjunct Professor of Natural Sciences  
M.B.A., International Management Specialization, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management  
M.S., Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware  
B.S., Agriculture, Montana State University

**Steven Werlin**, Professor of Liberal Arts (*on leave*)  
Ph.D., Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago  
M.A., Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago  
BA., Liberal Arts, St. Johns College, Annapolis, Maryland

### **Administration and Staff**

Susan E. Henking, Ph.D. is the President of Shimer College. The board delegates to the President authority to manage the daily operations of the institution. A full list of staff is available on the college website.

## History and Current Campus



Shimer College was founded in 1853 by Frances Wood Shimer and Cinderella Gregory, who traveled from Saratoga County NY across the prairie to the Mississippi River to found the Mount Carroll Seminary. Coeducational from the start, the Seminary was significant as a college which offered a formal education to women.

In 1896 Shimer began an affiliation with the University of Chicago that continued for the next 60 years. During this time, Shimer adopted a curriculum based on in-depth discussion of the Great Books that had been developed by Robert Maynard Hutchins, then Chancellor at the University of Chicago. To this day, primary-source texts form the core of Shimer's curriculum.

Shimer moved to Waukegan, Illinois in 1978 and relocated to its present home at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago in 2006. Many buildings on the IIT campus were designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential architects, who directed the IIT architecture program from 1938 to 1958. The American Institute of Architects recognizes the IIT campus as one of the 200 most significant works of architecture in the United States.

## Campus Resources

Shimer College is located on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) at 3424 South State Street, Chicago IL 60616. In addition to administrative and classroom space, Shimer has its own student lounge, bookstore, library, student life & computer center, and community programming area. IIT provides campus security, student housing, and many other amenities including food service, student organizations, health and counseling services, recreational facilities, computer access, and a large academic library.

## Student Services Fees

Shimer students pay service and technology fees which provide them with various Shimer programming and services, technology access and support, and library and bookstore access. Student service fees also provide Shimer students with access to all programming, student organizations, and campus activities that are available through IIT's Student Life program, and access and use of IIT services including (but not limited to) the Counseling Center, Health Services, Galvin Library, Keating Recreational Center, Student Center for Inclusion & Diversity, Women's Services, Career Management Center, Leadership Academy, Office of Spirituality & Service Learning, Shuttle Service, and Public Safety. Student service fees also provide Shimer students with wireless computer access anywhere on the IIT campus, as well as printing capability at student computer areas.

## Office of Student Life

Shimer's Office of Student Life provides activities and services in the areas of programming, community development, career development, service learning, education and leadership development, personal development, information & referral, student conduct, advocacy, orientation, and support services. Student Life presents diverse campus programming including social events, trips, forums, community events, public lectures, theatre events, and collaborative events with IIT and VanderCook students. Two annual Shimer

traditions take place every semester: Orange Horse (talent performance night) and Solidarity (end of semester community celebration). Student Life also coordinates Shimer access and involvement with the many programs and services available through IIT.

### **Housing & Dining Services**

The majority of first-year Shimer students live on campus in one of the IIT residence halls. Upperclass students live predominantly in local apartments in the surrounding Bronzeville and Bridgeport communities. Off-campus apartments within blocks of Shimer are readily available and generally quite reasonable in cost. All students living on campus are required to participate in one of IIT's meal plans; off-campus students are also welcome to do so. Students have several pre-purchase meal options that can be used at various food service venues on the campus.

### **Transportation**

Public transportation is plentiful, with the immediate campus served by both the Green and Red Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) "L" lines and several CTA bus lines. Full-time students receive a CTA U-Pass each semester as part of their required student fees. The U-Pass provides unlimited access to all CTA trains and buses. IIT also offers a shuttle bus service which operates regularly between the main IIT campus and the downtown area during rush hour on weekdays. The shuttle bus is free to Shimer students.

### **Disability Support Services**

Shimer College does not discriminate on the basis of disability in any programs, services, or activities. The college does not deny any otherwise qualified student with a disability the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, any aid, benefit, or service provided by Shimer college. The college strives to accommodate applicants and students with disabilities on an individual basis and to ensure that all disabled students have full access to the benefits of the university. As such, Shimer will engage in a good faith, interactive process with all disabled students to attempt to identify reasonable accommodations. However, reasonable accommodations do not include measures that fundamentally alter academic programs, place an undue financial burden on the school, or endanger the student or others. Students wishing to request accommodations may contact the Dean of the College or the Office of Student Life.

### **Health & Counseling Services**

Shimer students have full access to the extensive health and counseling services at IIT. Student health insurance, which is provided through IIT, is required for students who do not have insurance through their parents or employers.

### **Career Services**

Shimer offers a variety of career development services, including workshops and individual assistance with job-seeking skills and strategies, on- and off-campus student employment, career planning, internship opportunities, graduate school assistance, and post-graduation employment. Shimer sponsors a competitive summer internship program which offers challenging and rewarding experiences to several students each year. Shimer students are also welcome to utilize services, career fairs, and other activities that are available through the IIT Career Management Center free of charge.



## **Library**

The Shimer College Library offers access to print, media, and online databases. The Shimer collection, housed in two locations, includes reference materials, books which supplement the core curriculum, career and graduate study resources, a small film collection, and several academic and business databases. The Library Director provides reference and interlibrary borrowing services, database workshops and individual training sessions, and advice on career and graduate school options, resume writing, and internships. Shimer's library has comfortable space for students to read, write, and study.

A block from Shimer is IIT's main library, the Paul V. Galvin Library, where Shimer students enjoy full privileges. The Galvin Library offers access to books and journals in academic disciplines such as business, engineering and computer science. It has a substantial print reference collection, government documents, a Leisure Reading Collection, and online databases. In addition, several thousand books from the Shimer College library are housed in the Galvin Library (second floor, northwest corner).

Other campus libraries which may have resources of interest to Shimer students include:

- The Graham Resource Center, which serves the research and information needs of the IIT College of Architecture
- The Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions library, located in IIT's Hermann Hall
- The downtown IIT campus Library, which supports the professional programs of the Chicago-Kent College of Law.
- The Ruppel Library at VanderCook College of Music

## **Computer & Technology Facilities**

Within the Student Life Center, Shimer hosts student computer stations which offer word processing, printing, and internet access. Shimer's technology staff is available to help students individually with computer and technology issues and concerns. Shimer students also are able to use student computer and printing stations located throughout the IIT campus, as well as enjoying wireless access on campus.

## **Recreation & Fitness**

Students are encouraged to participate in recreational activities sponsored by Shimer and IIT as well as those offered throughout Chicago. IIT recreational facilities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, indoor track, gymnasium, racquetball courts, basketball courts, fitness center, and weight rooms. IIT's intramural program offers competition in basketball, handball, racquetball, softball, tennis, touch football, swimming, cross-country, and volleyball. IIT also offers a variety of fitness activities including yoga, tai chi, dance, and martial arts. Recreational activities, open swimming hours, and open court time is available in IIT's Keating Athletic & Recreational Center. All of these are available to Shimer students at no cost beyond their required student service fees.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES

### General Requirements

Shimer College aims to select students who will benefit from and contribute to its intellectual community. Each applicant is considered on an individual basis. Motivation, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to a rigorous and integrative educational program are important qualifications. Shimer will consider the application of any individual who has the potential to perform well in the College environment. Shimer is committed to equal educational opportunity. It is Shimer's policy to seek a diverse student body that is unified by its commitment to a common educational endeavor.

Shimer admits students for both the fall and spring semesters. Students are usually informed of admission decisions within four weeks of submitting the following admission documents:

1. Application fee of \$25
2. Official high school transcripts
3. A letter of recommendation
4. Official SAT or ACT scores - *optional in most cases*
5. An interview which may be conducted on campus or by phone
6. Official transcripts from each college attended (if applicable)
7. Two carefully written and substantive essays on topics described on the Shimer online application.

The writing samples and interview will be heavily weighed by the Admission Committee in its evaluation. There is no minimum grade-point average or minimum test score required for admission to Shimer College. All applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the College.

Shimer College welcomes homeschooled students. Applicants are asked to submit the documents listed above. In place of the formal high school transcript, applicants are asked to submit a narrative describing the curriculum followed and the student's progress, along with a statement indicating that the student has completed high school.

International students for whom English is a second language are asked to submit TOEFL scores as part of their application for admission to Shimer.

### Diagnostic and Placement Examinations

Entering students take diagnostic examinations designed to measure their competence in writing and mathematics. Optional placement exams are offered for the following courses: Humanities 1 and 2, Natural Sciences 1 and 2, and Social Sciences 1 and 2, which are described in this academic catalog.

Students may be exempted from certain Basic Studies courses based upon their performance on the placement exams. Such exemptions receive full five-hour course credit toward graduation. Evaluation of these exams is independent of any prior academic work. Students may choose to take any course from which they are exempted, but will not receive additional credit for doing so.

Placement examinations are offered at announced times, typically during new student orientation. The fee schedule for placement examinations, which includes fees for taking an exam and for receiving course credit

if it is passed, is available from the Registrar's Office. Candidates for the B.S. degree need not take placement tests in order to receive Basic Studies course transfer credit.

## **Transfer**

Students who have earned college credit at other degree-granting institutions are considered by Shimer College to be transfer students. Transfer students are expected to submit transcripts of all academic work at any college or university previously attended. The transfer to Shimer College of credits earned at other institutions is dependent on two factors: the particular degree program in which the student is enrolled at Shimer, and the appropriateness of the transfer courses to the requirements of that degree program. A grade of "C" or better is required for transfer credit. To assure the transfer of credit, transcripts must be submitted to the College prior to registration.

## **Early Enrollment**

Highly motivated high school students who want to begin college without having graduated from high school are welcome to apply to enroll in Shimer's Early Entrant Program, in operation since 1950. Early Enrollment is an option for students who are 18 years or younger, do not have a high school diploma or a GED, and are not being homeschooled. While Early Entrants may have completed some college work, it may not exceed 59 semester hours at a college, university, or community college. Homeschooled students should consult the Concurrent Enrollment section of the catalog (below) or contact the Office of Admission.

In reviewing applications for Early Enrollment, the Admission Committee emphasizes GPA, class rank, and scores on achievement tests which may include SAT, SAT II, or ACT. Evidence of Advanced Placement, participation in the International Baccalaureate, and/or college level course work while in high school will strengthen the student's application.

In addition to the documents enumerated for admission to the College, Early Enrollment applicants must submit two academic letters of recommendation and ACT or SAT scores.

Each Early Entrant at Shimer College is in the top quartile of at least one of the following:

- High School class rank OR
- GPA OR
- ACT or SAT scores

## **Concurrent Enrollment**

Students who are enrolled in high school, or are of high school age and are being home schooled, and would like to enroll concurrently as an Occasional Student at Shimer College may do so if they receive approval from the Dean of the College. These students benefit from college before embarking on a full college program. Such students are permitted to take Shimer courses, as space permits, at a reduced cost while earning full college credit.

The following documents are required to complete an application for Concurrent Enrollment:

1. Special Student Application for Shimer College

2. High school or homeschool transcript. A homeschool transcript may be in a format designed by the homeschool parent to report curriculum followed and student progress through that curriculum.
3. A two or three paragraph statement from the student, which should include the following:
  - What class the student would like to take
  - Why he or she would like to take this class
  - The benefit he or she hopes to gain from the class

The student may be required to meet with the Dean of the College for an informal interview before being granted permission to enroll.

### **B.A. to J.D. Program – Shimer and Chicago-Kent College of Law**

Shimer students are eligible to apply to participate in a joint program with Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law that will allow them to complete both a bachelor's degree and law degree in a total of six years, which is one year less than the usual time to earn both degrees. The B.A. to J.D. program is designed so that students will spend their first three years at Shimer and the last three at Chicago-Kent. The fourth-year curriculum for the bachelor's degree overlaps with the first year of law school studies.

Admission to the B.A. to J.D. Program is based on academic ability, recommendations, personal qualities, and co-curricular activities. See Dean of the College for specific application procedures.

### **Special Students**

The status of Special Student is applied to all non-matriculating students registered with the permission of the Dean of the College. Special Students are limited to ten credit hours in any one semester and no more than a total of thirty credit hours in all under this status. Special Student status is granted for a period of one semester; students who wish to continue this status must reapply each semester. Special students who desire to enroll in a degree program are asked to apply for admission to the College. For those who go on to enroll at Shimer as degree seeking students, credits earned as a Special Student will be counted toward degree fulfillment.

### **Course Audit**

Upon approval of the Dean of the College and the course instructor, any individual may audit any Shimer course for a pre-set fee on a space-available basis. Auditors may request that the credit fee be adjusted, according to documentation of need. Any regularly enrolled full-time student may audit a single course free of charge during any given semester. Auditors do not earn academic credit.

### **Senior Audit Option**

Upon approval of the Dean of the College, Shimer College offers a special financial rate for mature citizens and persons on a fixed income. Requirements for this special rate are that students are over 60 years of age and can document their financial need. Courses are available on a space-only basis.

## **Re-Admission**

Former Shimer students who left the college in good standing and wish to return to complete their program of study are welcome. Such students should contact the Office of Admission. They will be asked to complete an application for re-enrollment and update their academic credentials if they have earned academic credit since leaving Shimer. The Dean of the College will review the student's updated academic record as well as their Shimer record and, if necessary, contact him or her to discuss the student's growth and goals before approving him or her for re-enrollment.

## **TUITION, FEES, & FINANCIAL AID**

The Shimer College Tuition and Fee Schedule is published annually on the college website. Questions regarding the tuition and fee schedule can be addressed to the Business Office or to the Office of Student Life.

### **Financial Aid**

Shimer College holds that quality education should remain affordable and that no student should be denied a Shimer education because of costs. The College endeavors to provide generous merit- and need-based scholarships to eligible students.

To be considered for Shimer scholarships and need-based aid, students must complete an Application for Admission to Shimer and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Shimer also recommends that students apply for outside scholarships, which can be found, free, through various online resources, including FastWeb and Scholarships.com.

The Financial Aid Office reviews the FAFSA of each student and informs the student of any additional awards for which he or she is eligible. The award may be accepted by the student or appealed to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The Committee will consider such items as the student's financial need, special circumstances, academic record, timeliness of application, full use of Federal and State awards, and other available funds in making a decision to increase the amount of Shimer College aid. For more information, please call the Office of Financial Aid at (312) 235-3507.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Shimer College operates under a 15 week semester calendar with an eight week summer session. The semester hour is the unit of credit. Shimer uses a conventional letter grade system. Grade point averages are calculated and weighted on a 4.0 scale.

### Degrees

Shimer College is authorized by the State of Illinois to confer the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts (Humanities)
- Bachelor of Arts (Natural Sciences)
- Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences)
- Bachelor of Arts (Liberal Studies)
- Bachelor of Science (Humanities)
- Bachelor of Science (Natural Sciences)
- Bachelor of Science (Social Sciences)

Currently, graduation from Shimer College is contingent upon fulfilling the following requirements:

### Bachelor of Arts Degree

Total course requirements: 125 semester-hours credit

30 semester-hours: Basic Studies Courses

30 semester-hours: Area Studies Courses

20 semester-hours: Integrative Studies Courses

40 semester-hours: Elective Courses

5 semester-hours: Senior Thesis

Concentration: Of the 40 semester hours of elective credit, at least 30 must be in one area of concentration, unless the student has chosen to pursue a Liberal Studies degree. Students who desire to specialize in more than one area of concentration are required to complete at least thirty semester hours of elective credit in each.

Examinations: Degree candidates must successfully complete the Mathematics Competency Examination, the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, and at least one Area Studies Comprehensive Examination.

Writing Projects: Degree candidates must successfully complete all required Writing Week Projects, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

Grades: A cumulative grade-point average of "C" (2.0) or higher is required for graduation.

Recommendation: Recommendation by the faculty and its acceptance by the Board of Trustees is required for degree conferral.

## **Bachelor of Science Degree**

Total course requirements: 125 semester-hours credit

30 semester hours: Basic Studies Courses

10 semester hours: Area Studies Courses

20 semester hours: Integrative Studies Courses

60 semester hours: Elective Courses

5 semester-hours: Senior Thesis

**Prerequisite:** Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree must have at least 40 transferable semester hours, 20 of them in their intended major area, as determined by the Dean's Office prior to enrollment at Shimer.

**Concentration:** Of the 60 semester-hours of elective credit, at least 30 must be in one area of concentration. Such students must successfully complete at least 45 semester hours of upper-level work. Students who desire to concentrate in more than one area of concentration are required to complete at least thirty semester hours in each.

**Comprehensive Examinations:** Degree candidates must successfully complete the Mathematics Competency Examination, the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, and at least one Area Studies Comprehensive Examination.

**Writing Projects:** Degree candidates must successfully complete all required Writing Week projects, semester papers, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

**Grades:** A cumulative grade-point average of "C" (2.0) or higher is required for graduation.

**Recommendation:** Recommendation by the faculty and its acceptance by the Board of Trustees is required for degree conferral.

## **Double Major**

Students who wish to major in two or more areas of concentration other than Liberal Studies are welcome to do so. In addition to the degree requirements listed in the previous section, such students must also earn at least 30 elective credits in each area of concentration (Humanities, Natural Sciences, and/or Social Sciences). In addition, Bachelor of Science degree candidates must complete the 3- and 4-level courses in all areas in which they wish to major.

## **Specialization**

In addition to degrees in the areas specified in the previous section, Shimer also permits students to graduate with a designated area of specialization. The currently-approved specialization areas are Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, and Psychology. A student earning a minimum of 20 credit hours in electives in any of those areas will be granted the degree in that specialization if all other requirements for graduation have been fulfilled. More information is available in the Office of the Dean of the College.



## Second Bachelor's Degree

Students desiring to obtain a bachelor's degree from Shimer after having previously received one elsewhere will be permitted to transfer credits from their previous degree program as appropriate. These students then take the courses and examinations needed to fulfill Shimer's degree requirements. Students seeking a second bachelor's degree are not eligible for federal or state grants, although they may qualify for some federal loans and grants from Shimer College.

## Academic Advising

The office of the Dean of the College oversees the academic advising of each Shimer student. Meetings with students are scheduled for this purpose each semester. In addition, all first-semester students are scheduled for a mid-semester conference with their instructors. Additional advising meetings may be set up on an as-needed basis.

## Cross Registration

Students at Shimer College, Illinois Institute of Technology, and VanderCook College of Music have the opportunity to cross register among these three institutions. For information and advising please contact the following:

- Shimer students – Assistant Dean of the College
- Illinois Institute of Technology students – Office of Educational Services, Main Building 101
- VanderCook College of Music students – The appropriate Academic Advisor

## Study Abroad

Shimer regularly offers an academic program in Oxford, England. The Shimer-in-Oxford Program is open to upper-level students who apply to participate and are approved on the basis of their previous academic record at Shimer. These students normally take one core course each semester with a Shimer faculty member who also serves as Director of the Shimer-in-Oxford Program. Their other courses are tutorials in their area(s) of interest, taken with respected academics in Oxford. A wide range of courses are available to Shimer students. Tutorial courses taken by students in the most recent (2012-2013) Shimer-in-Oxford Program included the following:

Analytic Philosophy	German Literature
Anthropology	German Idealism
Archaeology	Goffman
Book Craft	Greek Playwrights
British Romantic Poetry	Hegel's <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>
Calculus III	Heresies
Color Theory	Joyce
Cosmologies	Jungian Psychology
Creative Writing – poetry	Number Theory
Creative Writing – prose	Psychotherapy and Feminism
Game Theory	Shakespeare
Gender Studies	Theories of Selfhood
Genetics	World Constitutions

## **Writing Program**

Shimer College expects disciplined academic writing from all degree candidates. There is no separate English Composition course at Shimer; instead, writing instruction is imbedded in the Core Curriculum. Four of the Core Courses (see “Core Curriculum”) particularly emphasize the development of clear and persuasive writing. Each student enrolled in a core course is required to complete a designated writing assignment, usually a Semester Project, during Writing Week at the end of each semester. Finally, each student is required to complete two Comprehensive Examinations, a Research Paper, and a Senior Thesis.

### **Basic Core Course Papers**

Two Basic Core Courses (Humanities 2 and Social Sciences 1) are designated as Writing Courses. Each of these courses requires a series of short papers, with students receiving regular feedback from their instructor on their writing. Because academic writing is a main focus, the student must complete every required paper in order to receive a passing grade for these courses, and each course must be successfully completed before students may register for the next course in the Writing Program.

### **Semester Project**

The Semester Project is undertaken by selected students during Writing Week, which follows the end of classes each semester. It focuses on a topic the student chooses in conjunction with a faculty advisor, usually the student’s writing instructor for that semester. The paper or project does not receive a grade but is the subject of a discussion between the student, the advisor, and the student’s faculty members for that semester at the student’s Final Conference. No student can register for a subsequent semester until his or her Semester Project has been deemed acceptable.

### **Comprehensive Examinations**

Following completion of at least six of the seven Basic Studies (1 and 2 level) Core Courses, students are required to demonstrate their skills on the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination. After completing the Area Studies (3 and 4 level) Core Courses in one area, normally the area in which they are concentrating, students are required to demonstrate their skills in that area on the Area Studies Comprehensive Examination. These examinations are offered during Writing Week at the end of each semester. Both of these examinations require substantial reading and writing; an oral portion is also required.

### **Research Paper**

The Research Paper serves as an intermediate step between the shorter papers required in the Basic Studies Core Courses and the Senior Thesis. It is required in Social Sciences 3; additionally, it may be written in partial fulfillment of the course requirements for any other advanced course except for Integrative Studies 5 or 6 if this option is offered by the course instructor. Students with fewer than 30 transfer credits must successfully complete the Research Paper prior to registering for Integrative Studies 5; all others must do so before registering for Integrative Studies 6.

## Senior Thesis

The Senior Thesis is an in-depth inquiry into a question or topic of the student's choice, representing the culmination of the student's academic experience at Shimer. The Thesis is guided by a faculty member chosen by the student, with another faculty member serving as a second reader. It is therefore an ideal opportunity for each student to work closely with members of the Shimer faculty.

The Thesis is undertaken and completed in conjunction with Integrative Studies 5-6, normally in the student's senior year, and counts for 5 credits in all. It can take various forms. Most students choose to write analytical or expository essays, but others compose fiction or poetry, create performance pieces, or fashion works of visual art. In all cases, the Thesis gives students the opportunity to pursue and refine the intellectual interests they have developed at Shimer. Successful completion of the Thesis indicates the student's readiness for graduation from Shimer College. Students wishing to defend their Thesis orally are encouraged to apply to the faculty to be permitted to do so. Such defenses are open to the public.

The Senior Thesis offers students the opportunity to demonstrate qualities cultivated at Shimer College, including the following:

- **Academic Achievement:** Students challenge themselves by deeply investigating an important topic of their own choosing. The process of researching and completing the Thesis hones their ability to conduct research, to analyze and synthesize information, and to communicate effectively about what they have learned.
- **Personal Accomplishment:** While most first-year Shimer students wonder how they will ever be able to complete a Senior Thesis, those who reach their final year are well prepared to do so. Shimer students typically become more academically self-confident by the time they reach their senior year. This is underscored by the sense of accomplishment that accompanies the completion of the Thesis.
- **Communication Skills:** The process of completing the Senior Thesis demands and nurtures communication skills. The student works closely with a member of the faculty and shares the progress of her or his work with fellow seniors.
- **Professional and Graduate School Preparation:** Few U.S. colleges and universities require a Senior Thesis, so the Thesis helps Shimer students stand out when applying to professional and graduate schools. Not only does it show that the student has the tools required to successfully complete a Master's thesis, but it also demonstrates high-level academic skills and indicates that the student has the focus and determination to succeed.
- **Career Preparation:** Any student who completes a Senior Thesis at Shimer College has proven that he or she is capable of completing a demanding and time-consuming assignment. It further demonstrates that the student is able to work independently at a high level of intellectual and personal competence.

In short, the Senior Thesis provides many benefits to the Shimer student. The student who successfully completes such a Thesis is prepared for a variety of challenges and opportunities upon graduating from Shimer.

# CORE CURRICULUM & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Core Curriculum

### The Shimer College Core Curriculum

#### Basic Core Studies

**Humanities 1**  
Art and Music  
*5 credits*

**Natural Science 1**  
Laws and Models  
in Chemistry  
*5 credits*

**Social Sciences 1**  
Society, Culture,  
and Personality  
*5 credits*

**Humanities 2**  
Poetry, Drama,  
and Fiction  
*5 credits*

**Natural Science 2**  
Evolution, Genetics, and  
Animal Behavior  
*5 credits*

**Social Sciences 2**  
The Western Political  
Tradition  
*5 credits*

**Integrative Studies 2**  
Foundations of  
Mathematics and Logic  
*5 credits*

#### The Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination

#### Advanced Area Core Studies

**Humanities 3**  
Philosophy and Theology  
*5 credits*

**Natural Sciences 3**  
The Nature of Light  
*5 credits*

**Social Sciences 3**  
Modern Theories of  
Society and Politics  
*5 credits*

**Humanities 4**  
Modern Currents in the Humanities  
*5 credits*

**Natural Sciences 4**  
Modern Scientific Revolutions  
*5 credits*

**Social Sciences 4**  
Social Perspectives and  
Social Action  
*5 credits*

#### The Area Studies Comprehensive Examination

#### Advanced Integrative Core Studies

**Integrative Studies 5**  
History and Philosophy of  
Western Civilization  
(Ancient World to the Middle Ages)  
*8 credits*

**Integrative Studies 6**  
History and Philosophy of  
Western Civilization  
(Renaissance to the Present)  
*7 credits*

#### Senior Thesis

*2 credits for Thesis Preparation in Fall & 3 credits for Thesis in Spring*

In the 1930s Robert Maynard Hutchins, the longtime President of the University of Chicago, developed a curriculum that required students to immerse themselves in the landmark works that represent the best and most influential thinking of our tradition. The core (required) curriculum at Shimer College consists of sequences of courses featuring these renowned works. Remaining credits are taken from among elective offerings at Shimer College, or from courses at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) or the VanderCook College of Music.

All of the Basic Core Courses (Humanities 1 and 2, Natural Sciences 1 and 2, Social Sciences 1 and 2, and Integrative Studies 2) are taken early in the student's academic program at Shimer. The Basic Core Courses emphasize careful reading, thoughtful discussion, and clear analytic writing. Students in these courses are guided in discovering and analyzing the central questions and ideas in the readings they study.

Following the successful completion of the Basic Core Courses, students take the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination, in which they are required to demonstrate their skills in comprehension and analysis. Successful completion of this examination indicates their readiness for more advanced academic work.

In the Advanced Core Courses, the first six of which are Humanities 3 and 4, Natural Sciences 3 and 4, and Social Sciences 3 and 4, seminal works are explored in a more detailed and focused way than in the Basic Core Courses. The works studied and skills developed in the earlier courses are brought to bear in this second stage.

The Area Studies Comprehensive Examination is taken in one of the major areas (Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences) after successful completion of all core courses in that area. This examination requires students to display a mastery of the basic questions, methods of investigation, and principles which organize a body of knowledge.

The final level of the Core Curriculum consists of the two Advanced Integrative Studies courses, Integrative Studies 5 and 6. In these courses, taken during the last full year of study at Shimer, students bring together both the broad knowledge from their Basic Studies Core Courses and the more focused approach characteristic of the Advanced Studies Core Courses. Students are expected to synthesize what they have learned at Shimer and to come to understand the interrelationships among the cultural, economic, political, philosophical, and religious achievements of each era in the history of Western civilization. Students taking these courses also enroll in for-credit work in Thesis, as they are required to undertake and complete a Senior Thesis during that period.

The Core Curriculum is carefully designed to provide a context for the integration between the various areas of study, and for integration between ideas. Reading lists may vary slightly from year to year.

### **Course Numbering System**

Shimer College courses are designated as either core required courses or electives. Core courses are given a number designation in addition to their topic area. One and two level courses are generally analogous to 100 and 200 level courses taken in the first and second years of study. Three through six level courses are considered upper-level courses. Electives are usually designated by title, but may include a number designation to indicate a level in a sequence, e.g., Latin 2.

## The Humanities

The four core Humanities courses acquaint students with imaginative representations and systematic explorations of the conditions of human existence. Great works of art and music are seen and heard. Seminal works by philosophers and theologians are read and discussed. Students learn to recognize and understand various techniques of persuasion, and then apply that understanding to their own oral and written communication.

### HUMANITIES 1: Art and Music

Humanities 1 consists of an investigation of the elements and forms of the musical and visual arts. This course is primarily about active listening and careful viewing. Students are introduced to debates in art criticism and aesthetics. No previous training in music or facility at drawing or painting is presumed. Working with fundamental concepts in music and painting, students develop a richer vocabulary to discuss, describe, and experience music and the visual arts.

#### Reading List: HUMANITIES 1

Albers, *Interaction of Color*  
Alberti, *On Painting*  
Balzac, "Unknown Masterpiece"  
Cooper, *Learning to Listen*  
Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"  
Ovid, *Metamorphosis*  
Plato, "Ion"  
Taylor, *Learning to Look*  
Vasari, *Lives of the Artists*  
Art by Cézanne, Picasso, da Vinci and others  
Music by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and others

### HUMANITIES 2: Poetry, Drama, and Fiction

Students in Humanities 2 are introduced to imaginative Western literature. The course features poetry, epic, drama, and fiction from ancient Greece to the modern era, and explores a variety of approaches to narrative and the use of language to create an imagined reality. Selected works of literary criticism are also included. Faculty members work intensively with students on their writing.

#### Reading List: HUMANITIES 2

*Norton Anthology of Poetry*  
Homer, *Odyssey*  
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex, Antigone*  
Aristotle, *Poetics*  
Shakespeare, *Hamlet*  
Dostoevsky, *Brothers Karamazov*  
O'Connor, short stories  
Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

### HUMANITIES 3: Philosophy and Theology

Humanities 3 introduces students to philosophy, theology, and the Bible. Concentrating on significant texts in each discipline through the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the course investigates their distinctive methods of approach, their use of logic and narrative, and the problems they seek to solve. (Prerequisites: Humanities 1 and 2)

Reading List: HUMANITIES 3

Plato, *Apology, Crito, Phaedo, Phaedrus, Symposium*

Aristotle, *Metaphysics*

*Holy Bible*

St. Augustine, *Confessions*

St. Anselm of Canterbury, *Proslogion*

St. Teresa of Ávila, *Autobiography*

Descartes, *Meditations*

Pascal, *Pensées*

Locke, *Essay on Human Understanding*

Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

### HUMANITIES 4: Modern Currents in the Humanities

The aim of this course is to investigate some major intellectual changes of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that shaped the study of the humanities in the twentieth century. A number of significant positions and approaches to the humanities were subsequently developed, many of which will be explored in detail in this course. (Prerequisite: Humanities 3)

Reading List: HUMANITIES 4

Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil, Birth of Tragedy*

Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics*

20<sup>th</sup>-century works on aesthetics, phenomenology, postmodernism, and semiotics

## The Natural Sciences

Appreciation and understanding of science as a human activity, along with the technical competence to work with the language and models used in science, are goals of the Natural Sciences sequence. The student travels from the static world of nineteenth-century chemistry through the evolutionary worldview of Darwin to the scientific advances of the twentieth century. The student considers the essence of light and color, as well as the nature of animals and plants, prisms and relativity, and quantum jumps. Emphasis is placed upon developing an understanding not only of the conclusions reached by scientists but also the methods used in reaching those conclusions.

### NATURAL SCIENCES 1: Laws and Models in Chemistry

Broadly stated, the question that Natural Sciences 1 addresses is, “What is the world made of?” Natural Sciences 1 is a chemistry course that begins with the Ancient Greek philosophers and continues into the early twentieth century. The course focuses upon several key concepts, such as weight, structure, and complexity, in an attempt to understand the material basis of the world. From the Greeks’ metaphors and Empedocles’ suggestion that the world is composed of four elements, the course proceeds through the observational description of matter to the development of the atomic model to explain matter’s observed behavior. Natural Sciences 1 concludes with Mendeleev’s periodic table of some ninety-odd elements ordered in terms of weight and Curie’s unnerving revelation that the “un-cuttable” atom might be breakable into smaller pieces.

#### Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 1

Aristotle, *Physics*

Wheelwright, *Presocratics*

Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*

Lavoisier, *Elements of Chemistry*

Bacon, *New Organon*

Cannizzaro, *Sketch of a Course of Chemical Philosophy*

Selections from Boyle, Avogadro, Gay-Lussac, Joule, Pascal, Faraday, Dulong, Stahl, Priestly, Thompson, Dalton, Clausius, and Curie

### NATURAL SCIENCES 2: Evolution, Genetics, and Animal Behavior

Natural Sciences 2 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, on the one hand, and genetics, the environment, and animal behavior on the other hand, are foci for class discussion.

#### Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 2

Aristotle, *On the Soul, Parts of Animals*

Paley, *Natural Theology*

Cuvier, *Revolutionary Upheavals on the Surface of the Globe*

Lamarck, *Zoological Philosophy*

Darwin, *Origin of Species, Descent of Man*

Mendel, “Experiments in Plant Hybridization”

Lorenz, *On Aggression*

Goodall, *Chimpanzees of Gombe*

Gould, *Panda’s Thumb*



### NATURAL SCIENCES 3: The Nature of Light

This course explores the nature of light. Students examine the development of the theories of falling bodies, gravitation, and electromagnetic forces in order to better understand this phenomenon. 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? (Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 1, Integrative Studies 2, and the Mathematics Competency Examination)

#### Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 3

Galileo, *Dialogues Concerning the Two New Sciences*

Newton, *Opticks, Principia*

Huygens, *Treatise on Light*

Selections from Ørsted, Young, Fresnel, du Fay, Franklin, Faraday, Hertz, and Maxwell

### NATURAL SCIENCES 4: Modern Scientific Revolutions

Natural Sciences 4 focuses on the dramatic developments in natural science since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both physics and biology moved from a macroscopic to a microscopic focus. The well-defined and deterministic picture of the world in classical physics gave way to the probabilistic approach of quantum theory, while biology turned its attention to the cell, the nucleus, and ultimately to the molecules and synthetic pathways that control genetic expression. The course focuses on first understanding the microscopic and statistical aspects of the workings of the world and then relating them to our own experience and response to the world. (Prerequisites: Natural Sciences 2 and 3)

#### Reading List: NATURAL SCIENCES 4

Einstein, *Relativity*

Schrödinger, *What is Life?*

Heisenberg, "Science in the Twentieth Century"

Gamow, *Thirty Years That Shook Physics*

Feynmann, *QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter*

Dyson, *Origins of Life*

Selections from Millikan, Davisson, Spemann, and Crick

## The Social Sciences

The four courses in Shimer's core Social Sciences sequence attempt to organize human experiences and analyze them in a disciplined manner. Social Sciences 1 delves into sociology, psychology, anthropology, and economics in order to address questions concerning the nature of society and the individual. Social Sciences 2 introduces the student to several main currents of thought in the Western political tradition, particularly those that have informed the American political system. Social Sciences 3 brings together the perspectives of the first two courses in order to consider critical studies of contemporary society. An examination of the relationship between social perspectives and social action is the chief focus of Social Sciences 4.

### SOCIAL SCIENCES 1: Society, Culture, and Personality

Social Sciences 1 introduces students to various disciplines in the social sciences – anthropology, psychology, sociology, and economics – through the study of seminal texts in those fields. This course concerns the interrelationship and interaction between 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. We examine what it means to be human, asking the question: Is there such a thing as human nature apart from society? Faculty members work intensively with students on their writing.

#### Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 1

Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*

James, *Psychology: the Briefer Course*

Freud, lectures on psychoanalysis

Piaget, *Moral Judgment of the Child*

Kohlberg, "Moral Stages and Moralization"

Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality"

Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*

Durkheim, *Suicide*

Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*

Marx, selections

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*

### SOCIAL SCIENCES 2: The Western Political Tradition

Social Sciences 2 traces the development of the Western political tradition, from Plato to the political system in the United States, through the study of seminal texts in Western political thought. Course readings address the following questions: Why are there laws, and how can we judge whether particular laws are good? What does it mean to live in a state, and when is a state's authority legitimate? Which people are and are not permitted to participate fully in the state, according to various authors, and what are the justifications for their views? This course studies in detail the meanings of the most significant words in politics, words such as freedom, liberty, equality, power, and responsibility.

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 2

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Politics*

Aquinas, "Treatise on Law"

Machiavelli, *Prince*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*

Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*

Rousseau, *Social Contract*

Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Douglass, *Story of My Life*

United States Declaration of Independence

United States Constitution

Federalist Papers

Selections from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Abigail Adams, and Lucretia Mott

SOCIAL SCIENCES 3: Modern Theories of Society and Politics

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 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. The movements addressed in the course include existentialism, colonialism, post-colonialism, globalism, capitalism, communism, socialism, and totalitarianism. A range of historically underrepresented voices and dissenting political philosophies and issues are also studied. (Prerequisites: Social Sciences 1 and 2)

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 3

de Tocqueville, *On Democracy in America*

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Marx, selections

Mill, *On Liberty*

Smith, *Wealth of Nations*

Marshall, *Principles of Economics*

Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*

Sartre, *Dirty Hands*

de Beauvoir, *Second Sex*

Arendt, *Human Condition*

Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

SOCIAL SCIENCES 4: Social Perspectives and Social Action

Social Sciences 4 examines conceptual frameworks and methodologies used in the various disciplines of the social sciences and how such concepts have been applied in modern social and political life. Special attention is given to the integration of theory and practice in the study of those concepts. Questions raised in previous courses in the Social Sciences sequence are reexamined, including: What is the meaning of "scientific validity" in this area of study? How can we reconcile subjective and/or personal experience with scientific claims about objectivity? (Prerequisite: Social Sciences 3)

Reading List: SOCIAL SCIENCES 4

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Weber, texts on method

Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*

Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*

Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures*

Keller, *Feminism and Science*

Berger and Luckmann, *Social Construction of Reality*

Selections on economics by Hayek, Keynes, Galbraith, and Friedman

## Basic Integrative Studies

The lone Basic Integrative Studies course, Integrative Studies 2, develops skills that are held by Shimer College to be necessary for individuals to regard themselves as educated. These skills include systematic reasoning and precision of expression. The advanced Integrative Studies courses serve to unify the history of Western thought, as well as Shimer's entire core curriculum up to that point.

### INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2: Foundations of Mathematics and Logic

Integrative Studies 2 is devoted to understanding and appreciating the foundations of mathematics and logic. This course features a variety of logical, mathematical, and geometrical systems, both ancient and modern, that demonstrate both the power and the limitations of mathematics. Some of these systems will be applied to ways of thinking about the physical world. The study of specific mathematical terms and forms of logical reasoning is designed to increase students' abilities to think logically and express themselves with precision.

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2

Euclid, *Elements*, Volume 1

Aristotle, *On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Posterior Analytics*

Descartes, *Discourse on the Method, Rules for the Direction of the Mind*

Einstein, *Relativity*

Lobachevsky, "Geometrical Investigations on the Theory of Parallel Lines"

Nagel and Newman, *Gödel's Proof*

## Advanced Integrative Studies

### INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5 and 6: History and Philosophy of Western Civilization

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 in the Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences that are not studied elsewhere in the core curriculum, are chosen for their historical significance and potential for integrative analysis and understanding. They are studied chronologically in order to emphasize their historical relationship to one another as part of a "great conversation" throughout Western intellectual history. (Prerequisites: final-year status and successful completion of the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination)

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5

*Epic of Gilgamesh*

*Inanna*

Homer, *Iliad*

Hesiod, *Theogony*

*Holy Bible*

Sappho, poetry

Aeschylus, *Oresteia*

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics, On the Heavens*

Herodotus, *Persian Wars*

Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*

Virgil, *Aeneid*

Ptolemy, *Almagest*

St. Augustine, *City of God*

*Beowulf*

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

Dante Alighieri, *Divine Comedy*

Reading List: INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 6

de Pisan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies*

Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*

Luther, "95 Theses"

More, *Utopia*

Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*

Kepler, *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*

Galilei, "Starry Messenger"

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

Shakespeare, *Tempest*

Bacon, *New Organon*

Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Hume, *Treatise on Human Nature*

Kant, *Foundation of the Metaphysic of Morals*

Goethe, *Faust*

Hegel, *Reason in History*

Nietzsche, *Use and Abuse of History*

Arendt, *Between Past and Future*

Eliot, *Four Quartets*

## **Electives**

Supplementing the core curriculum are elective courses, which comprise about one-third of each student's course of study. These electives fall into two categories: Advanced and Basic Skills. Each is described below. Elective offerings are also available by means of cross registration with IIT and the VanderCook College of Music.

## Advanced Electives

As part of its degree programs, Shimer College requires Advanced Study of all degree-seeking students. This Advanced Study takes two forms: the Advanced Core courses, required of all degree candidates (see “Core Curriculum”), and Advanced Electives selected by the student with approval of the Dean’s Office. The Advanced Elective courses at Shimer are characterized by in-depth work in a particular field beyond that provided by the Core Curriculum. Most Advanced Electives have Core Curriculum courses as prerequisites.

Recent Advanced Electives have included the following:

### Humanities:

- Aristotle's *Metaphysics*
- Jane Austen
- French Enlightenment
- Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
- Nineteenth Century Russian Literature
- Shakespeare: Text and Performance
- Spinoza's *Ethics*
- Women in Fiction
- Virginia Woolf

Additional courses in Music are available through the VanderCook College of Music (see “Cross Registration”). Additional courses in Art are available through other local institutions of higher education (see the Office of the Dean for details).

### Natural Sciences (including Mathematics):

- Bioethics
- Calculus (various levels)
- Cosmology
- Environmental Science
- Evolutionary Biology

Additional courses, including laboratory courses for premedical studies and advanced courses in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences, are available to Shimer students through the Illinois Institute of Technology (see “Cross Registration”).

### Social Sciences:

- Psychopathology
- Constitutional Law
- Developmental Psychology
- Freud and his Critics
- G.W.F. Hegel
- Plato's Political Philosophy
- Adam Smith and the Market Society
- Urban Sociology

For students enrolling in the B.A. to J.D. program with Illinois Institute of Technology's Chicago-Kent College of Law, the first year of law school counts as the final year of Social Sciences electives at Shimer.

Interdisciplinary:

- Confucianism
- Critical Theory
- Feminist Theory
- Historical Jesus
- Japanese Poetry: Waka, Rengu, Haiku
- Life of the Buddha
- Literature of World War I
- Literature of World War II
- Physics of Music and Sound
- Postmodernism
- Taoism
- Twentieth Century Retrospective
- Zen Masters

Advanced Electives are occasionally offered on a tutorial basis. Tutorials involve a faculty member and a small (1-3) group of students who have successfully completed the Basic Studies Comprehensive Examination. Such tutorials are most often made available for students whose academic aspirations indicate the need for advanced specialized courses. Recent tutorial offerings by the Shimer faculty include Advanced Calculus, Advanced Latin, American Woman Writers, Child Psychology, History of Art, Heidegger, and Plato's *Republic*.

### **Basic Skills Electives**

In addition to the Advanced Electives, Shimer also offers a variety of electives devoted to particular skills. These skills include writing (both academic and creative), basic mathematics and statistics, foreign languages, and the arts. Electives and private lessons in music can be arranged through the VanderCook College of Music (see "Cross Registration"). Electives in Art are available through other local institutions of higher education (see the Office of the Dean for details). Unlike the Advanced Study Electives, the skills developed in these courses do not depend upon earlier study in the core curriculum, so that most do not have prerequisites.

Students who wish to study languages may take French, German, Greek, Latin, and Spanish, which are offered periodically depending upon student interest. Students interested in studying other languages may be able to make arrangements with the Dean of the College to obtain private instruction.

Cross Registration with the Illinois Institute of Technology affords Shimer students the opportunity to study additional languages as offered. VanderCook College of Music classes that are open to Shimer students include Music History, Music Theory, Choir, Orchestra, Band, and Music and Technology.

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The Shimer College Academic Calendar is published annually on the college website.

## Academic Calendar 2013-2014

Weekday	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
New Student Orientation	August 16-19	January 13
Classes Begin	August 21	January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday <i>No classes</i>	***	January 20
Last Day to Add/Drop	August 28	January 22
Labor Day – <i>No classes</i>	September 2	***
100% Tuition Refund Date	September 9	February 3
Classes on Monday Schedule	September 19 (Thursday)	February 12 (Wednesday)
Presidential Inauguration <i>No classes</i>	September 20	***
Dean’s Break – <i>No classes</i>	October 14-16	February 13-14
Spring Break – <i>No classes</i>	***	March 17-21
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	November 12	April 11
Classes End	November 26	April 25
Thanksgiving Break – <i>No classes</i>	November 27-29	***
Writing Week	December 2-6	April 28 – May 2
Final Conferences & Registration	December 9-13	May 5-9
Commencement	***	May 3

Weekend	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
Registration for Continuing Students	May 11-12	December 21-22
Meeting #1	August 24-25	January 11-12
Meeting #2	September 14-15	February 1-2
Meeting #3	October 5-6	February 22-23
Meeting #4	October 26-27	March 15-16
Meeting #5	November 16-17	April 5-6
Meeting #6	December 7-8	April 26-27
Meeting #7	December 21-22	May 17-18
Writing Weekend	***	May 31 – June 1
Last Day to Add/Drop	August 28	January 15
100% Tuition Refund Date	September 16	February 3
Last Day for Official Withdrawal	December 7-8	April 26
Commencement	***	May 3

