

Shimer

The Great Books College of Chicago



ARE YOU A READER? ONE WHO READS CONSTANTLY, COMPULSIVELY? Do you see reading

not as a passive activity but as a way of actively engaging the world and understanding yourself? F Are you a thinker? One who isn't interested in being spoon-fed material from a textbook or memorizing facts for a test or listening only to what the teacher tells you? Are you someone who wants to figure things out, who wants to work out your own ideas? Are you an individual first? One who never quite fit in with the usual approach to education? Or accepted the idea that education is just about getting a job? Are you someone who believes learning should be about something more, something different? At Shimer, we've built a college for people just like you. No textbooks. No lectures. Here, you read original sources-the Great Books of Western culture.1 And you think about them, developing your own perspective on what they say about human experience. Then you discuss your ideas in a class with people who will push you to think more deeply about fundamental questions than you ever have before.2 That's a Shimer education.

2. "SHIMER DOESN'T TEACH JUST DEAD WHITE GUYS. THAT'S IMPORTANT IF YOU TRULY WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD WE LIVE IN."—LAUREN TAYLOR, SHIMER STUDENT 2. YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW THIS WORKS. WATCH WEBCASTS OF SHIMER SEMINARS AT SHIMER.EDU/ADMISSIONS/ONLINEDIALECTIC.CFM.

learn HOW to think not WHAT to think

> What are the great books? They are THE CLASSICS OF WESTERN CULTURE, THE LANDMARK WORKS THAT REPRESENT THE BEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL THINKING OF OUR TRADITION. Homer, The Bible, Plato, Euclid. Augustine. Newton. Shakespeare. Kant. Wollstonecraft. Einstein.3 These are voices in the Great Conversation—the conversation that Western civilization has been having with itself since it began. It's a conversation that asks fundamental questions about human life. What do we really know? What is the life most worth living? What is the nature of freedom? And when you study and discuss the Great Books, you're not simply a spectator. You're participating in that conversation. So why study the Great Books? To learn how to think. When you read the Great Books, you're reading works that speak to every age, that are essential to understanding the issues we face today. What makes them essential and relevant is that they show us how the greatest minds of Western civilization confronted problems and questions. By learning not just what the greatest minds thought, but how they thought, you develop the ability to think, analyze problems, and act intelligently. & Of course, the Great Books are difficult. After all, it's in these books that great minds are wrestling with fundamental problems. They're not watered down or meant to be absorbed like textbooks.

Understanding these works requires careful attention, but what better way to learn to think than by studying the best models of thinking? By working through these books, you learn that knowledge is a work in progress. You follow a problem as it's being worked out, seeing how others

have addressed problems, how they made mistakes, how they argued with those who came before. In the process, you'll learn to think through problems yourself, and you'll discipline your intellect and develop your powers of judgment. \{\bar{\gamma}\} And after four years at Shimer, where you'll be immersed in reading and discussing such important books, you'll be able difference. so we learn a lot of stuff to think more analytically and more creatively. You'll have the habits and techniques you'll need for fur-



NOAH KIPPLEY-OGMAN | LITTLE CANADA, MN

"SHIMER IS A SCHOOL THAT'S ABOUT IDEAS. WE LEARN ABOUT THE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED AND THE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN EMBRACED, AND HOW TO TELL THE BUT THE INTENT OF SHIMER IS NOT TO FILL US WITH STUFF. IT'S TO BUILD PEOPLE WHO CAN THINK CREATIVELY AND WHO CAN

ther specialized study and for continuing your education throughout your life.4 A Great Books education also prepares you to participate in a democratic society. After all, the political tradition of the West is grounded on the idea of an informed citizenry. At Shimer, students learn how to talk to each other and how to respect one another. They engage in a real dialogue, which is critical to the health of our society.

As one of only a handful of Great Books colleges in the country, Shimer offers a rare intellectual environment

^{3.} YOU'LL FIND A COMPLETE READING LIST IN THE BACK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SHIMER'S CURRICULUM, VISIT SHIMER.EDU 4. "INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES ARE HABITS RESULTING FROM THE TRAINING OF THE INTELLECTUAL POWERS. A DISCI-PLINED INTELLECT IS AN INTELLECT CAPABLE OF OPERATING WELL IN ALL FIELDS. AN EDUCATION THAT CULTIVATES THE INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES, THEREFORE, IS THE MOST USEFUL EDUCATION."-ROBERT MAYNARD HUTCHINS

[&]quot;It is with books as with men: a very small number play a great part, the rest are lost in the multitude." -Voltaire

<u>four</u> <u>five</u>

the MAXIMUM class size
at SHIMER is TWELVE

PEOPLE CHOOSE SHIMER BECAUSE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE, SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T FOUND IN TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS. As a Great Books school, Shimer is out of step with the educational approach you'll find at other colleges. But we're even out of step with other Great Books schools. We don't limit our curriculum to the Western canon or stop with the nineteenth century. We define Great



MATT MACDEVITT | MARQUETTE, MI

SHIMER STUDENTS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT INTELLECTUAL WORK. THEY LIKE TO USE THEIR HEADS, AND THEY TAKE THEIR EDUCATION SERIOUSLY. IN FACT, IF A PROFESSOR IS SICK, WE'LL HAVE CLASS ANYWAY. IN HIGH SCHOOL, I FELT LIKE I WAS MISSING SOMETHING JUST SHOWING UP TO CLASS AND REPEATING WHAT THE TEACHER TOLD ME SO I COULD GET THE GRADE. PEOPLE HERE DON'T LEARN THINGS BECAUSE OF GRADES.

Books more broadly than that. Here, you'll read the Western canon—after all, it grounds and informs our whole intellectual discourse—but you'll also read living authors, minorities, women, and some of the Great Books of non-Western cultures, too. It's an approach that ensures you get a classical education with a contemporary perspective. Not only do we read across the history of human knowledge, we also read across disciplines. Education, after all, should help you see how ideas interrelate. Our core

curriculum does just that.⁵ You'll take 16 core courses that cover the humanities, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and what we call Integrative Studies. In these courses, you'll develop habits of careful reading, thoughtful

"The ability of writers to imagine what is not the self, to familiarize the strange and mystify the familiar, is the test of their power."—Toni Morrison

Shimer has been named one of the "Best Buys in College Education" by Barrons.

Shimer College is one of the top 50 colleges in All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals and People of Faith discussion, and clear analytic writing as you deepen your knowledge of art, music, literature, science, philosophy, theology. In your last full year, you'll synthesize what you've learned as you trace connections among the cultural, economic, political, scientific, philosophical, and religious achievements of Western civilization. Our core



SHAWNNA JOHNSON | GROSSE ISLE, MI
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curriculum instills deep values of intellectual inquiry and creates a common background which all Shimer students share. At the same time, we recognize that learning is very personal, very internal. And that it is a process. You'll learn a lot of stuff, but what's more important is how you practice the spirit of inquiry. This isn't knowledge that can simply be reduced to multiple choice. We want to see you work out your own ideas. That's why our classes require so much discussion and writing.⁶ We also offer tutorials and electives where you can explore your interests in detail, working closely with one or two other students and a professor, studying exactly what you want to study. That gives you incredible freedom to learn what you want to learn. The combination of structure and flexibility makes us the ideal place for generalists, but independent generalists who want to pursue their own interests.

5. "WE DON'T SEE TRUTH AS UNITARY. WE'RE TRYING TO BRING HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES TOGETHER AND SEE TRUTH FROM MANY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES." —HAROLD STONE, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND HUMANITIES 6. ALL STUDENTS TAKE TWO COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS: ONE TESTS THEIR ANALYTICAL, LOGICAL, AND RHETORICAL SKILLS; THE OTHER TESTS THEIR MASTERY OF THE QUESTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF THEIR AREA OF CONCENTRATION.



At Shimer, dialogue is at the center of everything we do, and dialogue thrives on openness and respect. We respect whether we're students or faculty. That creates a unique kind of college environment. (1. Nick Schmitt | Portla 4. Nicolette Stossur-Bassett | Glen Ellyn, Illinois 5. Shawnna Johnson | Grosse Isle, Michigan)

each other's views. We respect the ideas we're discussing. And we respect the fact that we're all learners here— Oregon 2. David Lukens, Professor of Natural Sciences | Fort Collins, Colorado 3. Byron Keys | Detroit, Michigan



Nicolette: "What we're learning here is very valuable. We're talking about the very definitions of words that most people take for granted, so there's a lot less depth to their understanding of their world." Andrea: "It's a true education. It fosters in you the practice of actively seeking knowledge from the world. I've learned how to deal with the world and how to approach unknowns."

Stuart: "A generalist education is like climbing a mountain. You have to be surefooted in your thinking. You need patience and courage. But you have a better sense of where you fit within the landscape. You don't have to wonder where you are or what your horizons are hiding."

Andrea: "When I came to Shimer, I learned to teach myself anything."

Stuart: "Our students are better prepared and feel like they have a more rounded education than many students who may have majored in a particular subject."





the life-long BENEFITS of the life of the MIND.

At first glance, a Shimer education may appear too intellectual, too removed from the day-to-day issues students will face in their working lives. But the process of reading Great Books at Shimer produces habits of mind and qualities of character that apply far beyond the classroom. (1. Jeannot Arsenault | Quebec, Canada | 2. Nicolette Stossur-Bassett | Glen Elynn, Illinois 3. Jessica Diamond | Chicago Heights, Illinois 4. Michael Torre | Bronx, New York 5. Stuart Patterson, Assistant Professor of Humanities | Anaheim, California 6. Andrea Berry | Carthage, Michigan

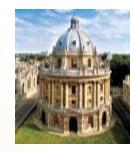
twelve thirteen

new EXPERIENCES, new QUESTIONS.

OPEN DISCUSSION. GENUINE INTELLEC-TUAL INQUIRY. THESE THRIVE ONLY IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF RESPECT AND EQUALITY.

And these are the values you'll find at Shimer. Everything we do-everything-is based on the ideals of democracy and equal opportunity: whether it's hiring a new faculty member, setting the budget, or deciding academic policies, students, faculty, and staff work together. This makes Shimer an institution where everyone can be invested in every way, at every level. This democratic spirit applies to extra-curricular activities as well. You won't find exclusive groups such as fraternities or sororities here. Instead, all our activities, whatever they might be—community lunches, softball games, bowling, theater productions — are open to everyone. While we're a tightly knit group, we're also the place for people eager to see the world. Saint Augustine once wrote,

WHILE IN OXFORD, SHIMER STUDENTS TAKE TUTORIALS WITH RESPECTED ACADEMICS FROM THE AREA. TUTORIALS ARE BASED ON STUDENTS' AREAS OF INTEREST, RANGING FROM POST-MODERN PHILOSOPHY TO ALCHEMY TO THE HISTORY OF BANKING TO VOICE



"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." As a school of readers, we take that sentiment to heart. Our Shimer-in-Oxford Program provides

you with the opportunity to study in Oxford, England, one of the great intellectual capitals of the world.⁷

7. YOU CAN READ ABOUT CURRENT SHIMER STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES AT OXFORD ONLINE AT SHIMER.EDU/ACADEMICPROGRAMS/OXFORDJOURNAL.CFM 8. FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SHIMER STUDENTS ON CAMPUS AND IN CHICAGO, GO TO HTTP://SHIMER.EDU/ABOUTSHIMERCOLLEGE/ STUDENTLIFE.CFM.





OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MEANS YOU GET AN UNCONVENTIONAL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE AMENITIES AND FACILITIES OF A MORE CONVENTIONAL, AND MUCH LARGER, SCHOOL. Shimer's location on the IIT campus gives you easy access to a performing arts center, an incredible fitness center, and a wide variety of other extracurricular opportunities — Shimer students even host their own shows on IIT's on-campus radio station. 8 & This unique partnership between a school focused on timeless ideas and a school focused on cutting-edge technology provides more than practical benefits. It gets at the heart of what it means

to be an educated citizen in today's THE ABILITY YOU HAVE AT SHIMER TO CROSSworld. What are the philosophical and sociological implications of technology? How does technology

REGISTER WITH IIT EXPANDS YOUR EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS TO INCLUDE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND COURSES THAT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL, BUSINESS SCHOOL, AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN TECHNOLOGY.

affect what it means to be a person? What role does it play in shaping wisdom? These are important and pressing issues, and as a Shimer student, you can take IIT classes (just as IIT students can take Shimer classes) that allow you to discover entirely new ways to understand human experience.

Shimer students can take advantage of IIT's 150 student organizations and extensive housing options.

One of Shimer's long-running traditions is "Orange Horse," our occassional variety show, where students showcase their talents in a blend of karaoke, American Idol, and old-fashioned vaudeville.



KAI SCANTI

Ph.D. Candidate, Clinical Psychology
CHICAGO SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

"MY SHIMER EDUCATION HAS PREPARED ME FOR ANY ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE LIFE CAN OFFER. YOU'RE REQUIRED TO STUDY AN INCREDIBLY BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS, AND THE RESULTING BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE ALLOWS YOU TO APPROACH ANY NEW SITUATION WITH CONFIDENCE."

THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE GREAT CONVERSATION AREN'T PURELY PHILOSOPHICAL. THEY'RE ALSO PRAGMATIC. How do we bring our learning to bear on our basic needs? How do we meet those basic needs in a way that's fulfilling? What is our relationship to work? How can we work better, smarter? Work, after all, is a fundamental component of human life. It's how we spend most of our waking hours. Consider the typical college education: you get accepted,

choose a career path, and then spend your time specializing in a narrow field. All before you're twenty years old. Obviously, Shimer isn't a place where you're going to spend four years specializing for a career. It's a place where you'll spend four years working through the greatest writings by the greatest minds, four years formulating ideas about the most difficult texts our culture has produced. What will you be ready for at the end of those four years? Anything. This doesn't mean you'll necessarily use what you've read in Aristotle or Aquinas in your eventual career. But by reading Aristotle and Aquinas, by having to clarify your arguments about all of these books, you'll have the

versatile skills and the confidence to handle extraordinary intellectual challenges. And that makes a Shimer education the best possible preparation for whatever you ultimately decide to do.⁹ • Our graduates prove the power and the practical value of a Shimer education—over and over again. It's no surprise that we're a national leader as a college whose graduates go on to earn Ph.D.'s. Our graduates excel in every field. They take to law school easily because the Socratic method, which law schools use, is already second nature to them. They thrive on Wall Street and as entrepreneurs because they know how to process dense information and how to focus on

details while keeping the big picture in mind. They're amazingly effective educators because they see learning in a fundamentally different light than most teachers. Our relationship with IIT complements this preparation by providing access to pre-med, business, architecture, science, and technology courses. All of this means Shimer offers the perfect balance—a place that values learning for its own sake and where the skills you develop translate directly to any knowledge-based profession.



PETER HANIG

Founder and President

HANIG'S FOOTWEAR

"SHIMER'S METHODOLOGY HAS HELPED ME THROUGHOUT MY BUSINESS CAREER. I ASK MANY QUESTIONS AND EXAMINE MY ASSUMPTIONS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. I TRY TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME AND USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND PERSPECTIVES. AND I ASK MYSELF 'IS THERE ANOTHER WAY OF APPROACHING A PROBLEM?"

Shimer graduates work in nearly every sector of society—from education to consulting, marketing to philanthropy, law to religious organizations.

"I tore myself away from the safe comfort of certainties through my love for truth and truth rewarded me." —Simone de Beauvoir

^{9.} TO HELP YOU DECIDE, WE OFFER PLACEMENT AND CAREER COUNSELING SERVICES, INCLUDING A CAREER AND INFORMATION CENTER, AN ONLINE SHIMER-DEDICATED POSITION SEARCH ENGINE, AND INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER COUNSELING BY STAFF AND ALUMNI. 10. SHIMER COLLEGE RANKS AMONG THE TOP COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES WHO EARN Ph.D.S.

SHIMER READING LIST

Because our curriculum is divided up into humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and integrative studies, you'll be able to focus your reading on particular questions and you'll see how the answers to those questions have changed over time. This approach also lets you revisit works, reading them in different contexts and from different angles.

HUMANITIES 1: ART AND MUSIC

Plato, Ion
Balrac, The Unknown Masterpiere
Kalka, A Hunger Artist
Archeim, Art and Vimal Perception
Cooper, Learning to Listen
Copland, What to Listen for in Minic
Toylor, Learning to Look

HUMANITIES 2: POETRY, DRAMA, AND FICTION

The Norton Antibology of Poetry
Homer, The Odyney
Sophoeles, Oedipus Trilogy
Shakespeare, Hamlet
O'Neill, Long Day's Journey Into Night
Chopin, The Anademing
O'Connor, Complete Stories
Morrison, Panadise
Faulkret, Three Fannous Short Newels

HUMANITIES 3: PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

Plato, Planelo, Apology, Crito, Symposium
The Bible (Genesis, Gaspel According to John, I Curithium)
Augustine, Confissione
Anselm, Prudogian
Teresa of Avila, Life of Saint Teresa by Herself
Dewartes, Meditations
Pascal, Pennen
Locke, Enny on Human Understanding

HUMANITIES 4: CRITICAL EVALUATION IN THE HUMANITIES (ENLIGHTENMENT TO PRESENT)

Auerbach, "Odysous" Scar"
Barthes, 8/Z
Bernstein, The Unantimed Question
Buber, I and Thin
Category, Continental Aesthetics Rusder
Gombrich, Art and Illinoine
Kant, "What Is Erlightenment?"
Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil
Scarry, On Beauty

SOCIAL SCIENCES 1: SOCIETY, CULTURE, AND PERSONALITY

Benedict, Patterns of Culture
Freud, New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanologic
Praget, Moral Judgment of the Child
Kohlberg, Moral Stages and Moralization
Chodorow, Family Structure
and Feminiae Personality
DuBlois, Souli of Black Fulk
Durkheim, Suicide
Mace-Engele Render
Weber, The Protestant Ethic
and the Spira of Capitalism

SOCIAL SCIENCES 2: THE WESTERN POLITICAL TRADITION

Plato, Republic
Aristoele, Politics
Aquinas, Triative on Law
Machiavelli, The Prince
Hobbes, Leviathan
Locke, Sacond Triative on Civil Government
Smith, Wealth of Nations
Monnesqueue, Spirit of the Law
Reusseau, Social Contract
U.S. Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution
Federalist Papers
Wollstonocraft, Vindication of the Rights of Winner

SOCIAL SCIENCES 3: MODERN THEORIES OF POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Freud, Civilization and its Discontents Sartre, Dirty Hands Mars-Engols Render Arendt, The Haman Conditions Huxley, Brave New World de Beauvoir, Second Sex Tocqueville, On Democracy in America Hegel, Philosophy of Rigids Mill, On Liberty

SOCIAL SCIENCES 4: THEORIES OF SOCIAL INQUIRY

Weber, Methodology of the Social Sciences Darkheim, Roles of Social Sciences Winch, The Idea of a Social Science Geerte, Interpretation of Cultures Freue, Pedagogy of the Opperated Harling, ed., Francisca and Methodology Foucault, Dicipine and Panish Manuscien, Idealogy and Utopia

NATURAL SCIENCES 1: LAWS AND MODELS IN CHEMISTRY

Aristotic, Physic
Kirk & Raven, The Presentate
Lucreius, On the Nature of the Universe
Lavoisier, Element of Chemistry
Bacon, New Organian
Cannizzaro, Shetch of a Course in Chemisal
Pallondry
Selections from Pascal, Joule, Boyle,
Avogardo, Gay-Lussac, Dullong, Stahl,
Priesdy, Rumford, Dalton

NATURAL SCIENCES 2: EVOLUTION, GENETICS, AND ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Aristotle, On The Soul
Darwin, Origin of Species
Mendel, "Experiments in Plant Hybridization"
Lorenz, On Apprezion
Goodall, Through a Window
Lamarck, Zoologianl Philosophy
Gould, The Panda's Thumb

NATURAL SCIENCES 3: LIGHT, MOTION, AND SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

Newton, Optide Einstein and Infeld, Evolution of Plensia Einstein, Relativity Selections from Galileo, Oersted, Hungens, Young, Fresnel, DuFay, Franklin, Maxwell

NATURAL SCIENCES 4: QUANTUM PHYSICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Schrodinger, What is Life?
Hewenberg, Physics and Philosophy
Gamow, Thirty Years that Shook Physics
Keller, A Feeling for the Organism
Feynmann, QED
Polarry, Personal Knowledge
Dyson, Organis of Life
Margalis, Organis of See

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES I: ANALYSIS, LOGIC, AND RHETORIC

Abbont, Flatland
U.S. Constitution
Selected Supreme Court cases
Plato, Mens
Aristotle, Niconachour Ethier
King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
Copernicus, On the Revolutions
of the Harrenly Spheres

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 2: THE NATURE AND CREATION OF MATHEMATICS

Exclid, Element, Volume 1
Aristotle, Petersia Analytics
Bonols, Non-Euclidean Geometry
Descartes, Rules for the Direction of the Mind.
Discourse on The Method
Estatesia, Relativity
Nagel and Newman, Godel's Proof

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 5: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

The Epic of Gilgamuch Homer, The Ilian Hesiod, Theagare The Bible Sappho, Parry Acselvelus, Orozzia Plato, Republic Aristotle, Niconachean Ethics, On The Heavens Herodotos, Peniau Wary Thucydides, Polipsoneman War. Virgil, Amout Prolemy, Almagor Aurelius, Meditariau Tacirus, Agrinda, Germania Augustine, City of God Bowulf Aquinas, Sunnan Theologica Dante, The Dirine County

INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 6: HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Pisan, Transer of The City of Ladies Chaucer, Canterbury Tales Lother, 95 Thesis More, Utopia Copernicas, On The Revolutions of the Harrendy Spheres Kepler, Epitome of Copernican Astronomy Galiloo, "The Starry Messenger" Shakespeare, Timper Bacon, New Oysenson Milton, Panulise Low Cervantes, Don Outoute Hume, Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding Kant, Prologomeron to any Future Metaphinis, Fernidation of the Metaphysic of Morals Goethe, Faur Hegel, Rosson in History Nicrosche, Use and Almos of History

Read more. Learn more. Visit us in Chicago. Go to www.shimer.edu for more information.



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