



**NORTH CENTRAL  
COLLEGE 1861**

# Shimer Great Books School

## Required and Suggested Texts

### HUMANITIES SEQUENCE

#### SGBH 101: ART AND FICTION

##### REQUIRED TEXTS/WORKS OF ART

A modern novel  
Albers, *The Interaction of Color*  
An East Asian novel, e.g. Murasaki, *The Tale of Genji* or Cao Xueqin, *The Story of the Stone*  
At least one film  
At least one graphic novel  
At least three short stories  
Auerbach, "Odysseus' Scar"  
Bible: *Genesis*  
Homer, *Odyssey*  
Ovid, excerpts from *Metamorphoses*  
Paintings from Japan and China  
Paintings relating to myths from Ovid  
Susanne Langer, "Creation"  
Taylor, *Learning to Look*  
*The Qur'an*

##### SUGGESTED TEXTS/WORKS

Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
Adams, *Mont Saint-Michel and Chartres*  
Alpers, *Vexations of Art*  
Brinkman, *Gods in Color: Polychromy in the Ancient World*  
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*  
Hermitage (film)  
Hockney, *A History of Pictures* or *A Day on the Grand Canal with the Emperor of China*  
Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*  
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* or *Persuasion*  
Liu Xie, *The Literary Mind and the Carving of Dragons*  
Rilke, *Letters on Cezanne*  
Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*, *To the Lighthouse* or other major work

#### SGBH 102: MUSIC AND VERSE

##### REQUIRED TEXTS/WORKS

Aristotle, *Poetics*  
*Book of Psalms*  
Music of Asia  
Musical notations: Gregorian, Classical  
Western, Indian, Honkyoku

Musical pieces from the classical and jazz traditions  
One Shakespeare play related to a piece of music  
Ralph Ellison, *Living with Music*  
Selections of English Poetry from a representative anthology (e.g., Norton)  
Sonnets by Shakespeare and other English-language authors  
Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*  
*The 300 Tang Poems*, Griswold et al, *I am the Beggar of the World* or Basho, *Narrow Road to the North*  
*The Qur'an*

##### SUGGESTED TEXTS/WORKS

Gershwin, *Porgy and Bess*  
Levitin, *This Is Your Brain on Music*  
*Mahabharata*  
Plato *Ion*, *Republic*  
Sullivan, *The Three Perfections: Chinese Painting, Poetry, and Calligraphy*.  
Tolstoy, *What is Art?*

#### SGBH 201: PHILOSOPHY AND THE NATURE OF THOUGHT

##### REQUIRED TEXTS/WORKS

Aesthetics of photography and film  
*Bhagavad Gita*  
Chuang Tzu  
Confucius, *Analects*  
De Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*  
Descartes, *Meditations*  
Ibn Rushd, *The Decisive Treatise*  
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*  
Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*  
Plato, *Last Days of Socrates* and *Phaedrus*  
*Proverbs*, *Job* and *Ecclesiastes*

##### SUGGESTED TEXTS/WORKS

Bellah, *The Axial Age and its Consequences*  
Benjamin, *On the Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*  
Bordo, *Cartesian Masculinization of Thought*  
Heidegger, *Origin of the Work of Art*  
Heidegger, *What Is Metaphysics*  
*La Dolce Vita*, *2001*, *Vertigo*, or *Melancholia*  
Nietzsche, *Birth of Tragedy*  
Nussbaum, *Poetic Justice*

Photos by Arbus, Lange  
Sontag, *On Photography*  
Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*

#### SGBH 202: THEOLOGY AND STRUCTURES OF MEANING

##### REQUIRED TEXTS/WORKS

Al-Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error*  
Anselm, *Why God Became Man*  
Augustine, *Confessions*  
*Book of Daniel*  
Buber, *I and Thou*  
Cone, *God of the Oppressed*  
Dhammapadda and Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught* or Syedullah, *Radical Dharma*  
*Gospel of John*  
*Qur'an and Hadith*  
Sistine Chapel, *Mosques, Cathedrals*  
Sophocles, *Antigone*  
St. Theresa, *Autobiography*

##### SUGGESTED TEXTS/WORKS

Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*  
Bellah, *Religion in Human Evolution*  
Butler, *Antigone's Claim*  
Gandhi, *Autobiography*  
Henry Adams, *Mont Saint Michel and Chartres*  
Malcolm X, *Autobiography*  
Sophocles, *Oedipus in Colonus*

#### SGBI 101: THE CLASSICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LOGIC AND MATHEMATICS

##### REQUIRED TEXTS

Aristotle, *The Organon*  
Descartes, *Discourse on Method, Rules for the Direction of the Mind and Geometry*  
Euclid, *Elements*, Books 1, 5, 7, 10  
Nicomachus of Gerasa, "On Arithmetic"  
Pascal, "On the Geometrical Mind" and "On Conic Sections"  
Plato, *Meno*  
Shiner and Moon, "Bits and Bins"  
Stoic logical theory

##### SUGGESTED TEXTS

Erasthenes' demonstration of earth circumference  
Shiner, "On Fallacious Reasoning"

## **SGBI 102: THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC**

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### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Bayes' Rule  
Dedekind, *Essays on the Theory of Numbers*  
Einstein, *Relativity*  
Fisher, *Selections on Statistics*  
Hume, *Treatise on Human Nature*  
Lobachevskii, "Imaginary Geometry"  
Mendel, *Experiments in Plant Hybridization*  
Nagel & Newman, Gödel's Proof  
Newton, *Principia Mathematica*  
Pascal, *Letters on Probability Theory and Gambling*  
Shiner and Moon, "A Little Bit of Reasoning about Reasoning and Logic" and "On Paradox"

### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Kapoor, Cloudgate (field trip on curved space)

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE SEQUENCE**

### **INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 451: THE ANCIENT TO EARLY MODERN WORLD**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

A major study of the origins of monotheism, e.g. Jan Assmann, *The Price of Monotheism*  
A scholarly work on the relationship between Greek politics and thought, e.g. Nicole Loraux, *The Divided City*, Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?* or Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution*  
Aeschylus, *Agamemnon* and *Eumenides*  
*Exodus*  
*Gilgamesh*  
Homer, *The Iliad*  
*Inanna*  
Plato, *Timaeus*, *Phaedo*, and/or *Republic*  
Sappho, selected poems  
Simone Weil, "The Iliad, or The Poem of Force"  
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

#### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Aristotle, *On the Heavens*  
Augustine, *City of God*  
Dante, *Divine Comedy*  
de France, *Lais*  
de Pizan, *Treasure of the City of Ladies*  
Douglas, "The Abominations of Leviticus"  
Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*  
Hallaj, "Iblis as Tragic Lover"  
ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*  
ibn Tufayl, *Hayy ibn Yaqzan*  
Selections from Ancient Near Eastern legal documents, e.g. Hammurabi's Code  
Selections from legal codes in *Leviticus* and *Deuteronomy*  
Sima Guang, *Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance*

Sima Qian, *Records of the Grand Historian*  
*Song of Songs*  
Stowasser, *Women in the Qu'ran, Traditions and Interpretations*  
*The Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles*  
*The Qur'an*, Surah 2  
Virgil, *The Aeneid*

### **INTEGRATIVE STUDIES 452: THE MODERN WORLD**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Arendt, *On Revolution* or *Origins of Totalitarianism*  
At least one consideration of visual art  
At least one graphic novel or film  
At least one novel  
At least one significant musical work  
At least one work originally published in the 21st century  
Goethe, *Faust*, Part 1  
James, *The Black Jacobins*  
Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*  
Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*  
One primary text from the Protestant Reformation, e.g. Luther, *The Enslaved Will* or *Calvin's Institutes*  
One Shakespeare play  
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

#### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Cesaire, *A Tempest*  
Crowe, *Modern Theories of the Universe from Herschel to Hubble*  
de Castro, *The Inconstancy of the Indian Soul*  
Einstein, "Geometry and Experience"  
Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*  
Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*  
Koyre, *From the Closed World to the Infinite Universe*  
Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*  
Wynter, "1492"

## **NATURAL SCIENCES SEQUENCE**

### **SGBN 101: THE SHAPE OF THE WORLD**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Archimedes, "On the Equilibrium of Planes," "On Floating Bodies"  
Archimedes' Principle, Floating bodies  
Aristotle, *On the Heavens*, *On the Soul*  
Day and night sky observation and recording  
Galen, *On Diseases and Symptoms*  
Kuhn, *The Copernican Revolution*  
Lindberg, *The Beginnings of Western Science*  
Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, Books I-II  
Ptolemy, *Almagest*  
Weights and levers; Building a balance  
Wheelwright, *The Presocratics*

## **SUGGESTED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Aristotle, *Politics*, *Physics*  
Averroes (Ibn Rushd), *De substantia orbis*; *On Aristotle's De Generatione et Corruptione*  
Bacon, *The Opus Maius*  
Duhem, *To Save the Phenomena*  
Epicurus, *The Epicurus Reader*  
Hadot, *What Is Ancient Philosophy?*  
Hippocratic Writings  
Ibn-al-Haythan (Alhazen), *The Optics of Ibn al-Haytham*  
Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed*  
Paracelsus, *The Hermetic and Alchemical Writings*  
Pliny, *Natural Histories*  
Wheeler, *Listening to Heloise*

### **SGBN 102: WHAT IS MATTER?**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Air and hydraulic pressure  
Bacon, *New Organon*, Book II  
Boyle, "Touching the Spring of the Air"  
Boyle's Law  
Calcination of iron  
Cannizzaro, *Sketch of a Course in Chemical Philosophy*  
Clausius, "On the Nature of the Motion that We Call Heat"  
Coin Lab on Cannizzaro's methods  
Curie, 1911 Nobel Lecture  
Dalton, "On the Constitution of Bodies," "On Chemical Synthesis"  
"Dephlogistication" of magnesium  
Du Chatelet, *Dissertation on the Nature and Propagation of Fire*  
Examination of Modern Periodic Table  
Joule, "On the Mechanical Equivalent of Heat"  
Latent Heat  
Lavoisier, "Memoir on the Calcination of Tin," "Elements of Chemistry"  
Mechanical equivalent of heat  
Mendeleev, "The Relation Between Properties and Atomic Weights"  
Pascal, *Scientific Treatises on Fluid Dynamics*  
Weight of air  
**SUGGESTED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**  
Avogadro, "A Manner of Determining the Relative Masses . . ."  
Black, "Lectures on the Elements of Chemistry"  
Dalton, "1810 Extract," "Atomic Principles of Chemistry"  
Dulong, "Atomic Weights and Specific Heat"  
Electrochemical potentials/Batteries  
Electrolysis of water

Faraday, "Decomposition of Tin Chloride"  
Gay-Lussac, "On the Combination of Gaseous Substances . . ."  
Priestly, "On Dephlogisticated Air"  
Specific heats of different elements  
Supercooling  
Thompson, "Source of the Heat Which is Excited by Friction"  
Volta, "On the Electricity excited by the mere Contact . . ."  
Wheelwright, *The Presocratics*

### **SGBN 201: WHAT IS MOTION?**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Bohr, "On the Spectrum of Hydrogen"  
Collins and Pinch, "The Golem," *What Everyone Should Know About Science*  
Davisson, "Are Electrons Waves?"  
Descartes, *Optics*  
Einstein, "Photoelectric Effect"  
Electron diffraction  
Experiments from Galileo's *Two New Sciences* and Newton's *Opticks*  
Faraday, "On the State of Electrical Induction," "On the Induction of Electric Currents"  
Feynman, QED: *The Strange Theory of Light and Matter, Character of Physical Law*  
Franklin, "The One Fluid Theory of Electricity"  
Galileo, *Dialogues Concerning Two New Sciences*  
Gamow, *Thirty Years that Shook Physics*  
Heisenberg, *Physics and Philosophy*  
Hertz, "Electromagnetic Waves"  
Hunt, *Pursuing Power and Light*  
Huygens, "Treatise on Light"  
Induction  
Mass/charge of electron  
Maxwell, "On Action At a Distance," "On Some Points of Magnetic Philosophy"  
Millikan, "A Direct Photoelectric Determination of Planck's h," "The Electron"  
Motors and electromagnetic induction  
Newton, *Opticks, Principia Mathematica*  
Observation of spectral lines  
Oersted, "Electromagnetism"  
Oersted's experiment  
Photoelectric effect  
Planck, *Eight Lectures on Theoretical Physics*  
Reflection, refraction, and diffraction of light  
Schrödinger, "Four Lectures on Wave Mechanics," "Remarks," or Nobel Lecture  
Snell's Law  
Somerville, *On The Connexion of the Physical Sciences*  
Static electric phenomena

#### **SUGGESTED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Transmission and properties of Hertz waves  
Types and behaviors of waves  
Visualizing and mapping magnetic fields  
Young, "Interference of Light"

### **SGBN 202: WHAT IS LIFE?**

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#### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Aristotle, *On the Soul*  
Lamarck, *Zoological Philosophy*  
Paley, "Natural Theology"  
Darwin, *Origin of Species, Descent of Man*  
Mendel, *Experiments in Plant Hybridization*  
Hardy, "Mendelian Proportions in a Mixed Population"  
Chetverikov, "On Certain Aspects of the Evolutionary Process"  
Schrödinger, *What is Life?*  
Lorenz, *On Aggression*  
Goodall, *Chimps of Gombe*  
Crick, "Structure of the Hereditary Material," "On Protein Synthesis"  
Franklin, "Molecular Configuration in Sodium Thymonucleate"  
Contemporary account of evolutionary developmental biology, e.g. Nusslein-Volhard, *Coming to Life* or Carroll, *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*  
Dyson, *Origins of Life*  
Examination of the ethical issues of developments in biological science, e.g. Suzuki and Knudson, *Genethics: The Clash Between the New Genetics and Human Values*  
Examination of relation of scientific to other forms of inquiry and knowledge, e.g. Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge*, Snow, *The Two Cultures*, or Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology" taxonomic categorization  
Calculations of population genetics/ Punnett squares  
Observing animal behavior (fish, fowl, human)

#### **SUGGESTED TEXTS AND LABORATORY SESSIONS**

Dominance lab  
Glick & Kohn (eds.), *Charles Darwin On Evolution*  
Goldschmidt, *Darwin's Dreampond*  
Gould, *Panda's Thumb*  
Margulis, *Origin of Sex*  
McClintock, Nobel lecture  
Medawar, "An Unsolved Problem in Biology"  
Observing and describing variation in nature  
Preserved specimens  
Spemann, "Embryonic Development and Induction"

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES SEQUENCE**

#### **SGBS 101: MODELS OF SOCIAL THOUGHT**

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##### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

A contemporary sociological study relating to race in America (e.g. Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* or Moore, *The South Side*)  
DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk*  
Durkheim, *Division of Labor, Suicide, or Rules of Sociological Method*  
Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures* or *Local Knowledge* and one additional anthropological monograph, e.g. Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*; Conklin, *Consuming Grief*; Latour, *Laboratory Life*; Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*; Warnock, *Guests of the Sheikh*  
Marx, selections from *1844 Manuscripts* and/or "Wage Labor and Capital," *Grundrisse*, or *Capital Selections* from Hayek and Keynes on economics  
Smith, *Wealth of Nations*  
Weber, selected shorter writings

##### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

A contemporary sociological investigation of suicide  
Becker, "The Economic Way of Looking at Things"  
Bourdieu, *Distinction*  
Douglas, *World of Goods*  
DuBois, *The Philadelphia Negro*  
Galbraith, "The Inevitability of Planning"  
Marshall, selections from *Principles of Economics*  
Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*  
Nussbaum, selected writings  
Robinson, selected writings  
Sen, "Equality of What?"  
Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*  
Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class*  
Zimbardo, *Stanford Prison Experiment: A Simulation Study of the Psychology of Imprisonment*

#### **SGBS 102: THE WESTERN POLITICAL TRADITION**

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##### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

American Founding Documents, including *Declaration of Independence*; *Constitution*  
Aristotle, *Politics*  
At least two Supreme Court cases  
de Tocqueville, *On Democracy in America*  
Douglass, *Story of My Life*  
Hobbes, *Leviathan*  
Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*  
King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"  
Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*  
Machiavelli, *Prince*  
Madison, Hamilton, and Jay, *The Federalist Papers*  
Plato, *Republic*

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Human Inequality, Social Contract, and/or Émile*  
Schneir, *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings*  
Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*

#### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Aquinas, selected writings on politics  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*  
Cooper, *A Voice from the South*  
Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” or other speeches on civil rights  
Ida Wells, selected articles  
Lincoln, selected speeches  
Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”  
Mann, writings on public education  
Mill, *On the Subjection of Women*  
Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*  
Other speeches of Sojourner Truth or Martin Luther King  
Spinoza, *Theological-Political Treatise*  
Stephens, “Cornerstone Speech”  
Thoreau, “Civil Disobedience”

#### **SGBS 201: CRITICAL THEORIES OF SOCIETY AND POLITICS**

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##### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Arendt, *The Human Condition*  
de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*  
Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* or *Black Skin, White Masks*  
Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* and/or *Philosophy of Right*  
Marx, selections highlighting his relation to Hegel, “The German Ideology,” such as *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (if not used in 101), “Theses on Feuerbach,” and/or “Manifesto of the Communist Party”  
Mill, *On Liberty* and *On the Subjection of Women*

##### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Engels, *Origin of The Family, Private Property and The State*  
Fanon, *Algeria Unveiled*  
Gandhi, writings on non-violence  
Goldman, essays on anarchism and communism  
Salih, *A Season of Migration to the North*  
Young, “Throwing like a Girl”

#### **SGBS 202: SOCIAL FORMATION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

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##### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Berger and Luckmann, *Social Construction of Reality*  
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* or *History of Sexuality*  
Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*  
Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*

Gilligan, *In a Different Voice*  
Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*  
Piaget, “Moral Feelings and Judgments”  
Selections on feminism and methodology, including at least two essays by Haraway, Harding, and Flax and/or selections from Keller, *Feminism and Science*  
Texts on moral development by Kohlberg and Chodorow

##### **SUGGESTED TEXTS**

Huxley, *Brave New World*  
Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*  
Laing and Esterson, *Sanity, Madness, and the Family*  
Le Guin, *Dispossessed*  
Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*  
Zimbardo, *The Stanford Prison Experiment*