How does the Core work? What do students gain from it? Ella shares the story of her academic career.

**1st year**
- **AUTUMN QUARTER**
  - Reading Cultures
  - Honors Calculus I
  - Mechanics

- **WINTER QUARTER**
  - Reading Cultures
  - Honors Calculus II
  - Electricity and Magnetism
  - Biological Evolution

- **SPRING QUARTER**
  - Introduction to Black Chicago, 1835-2010
  - 19th Century French Art

**2nd year**
- **AUTUMN QUARTER**
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis I
  - Urban Policy Analysis

- **WINTER QUARTER**
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis II
  - Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences

- **SPRING QUARTER**
  - Language, Art, and Society I
  - Art and Architecture: Europe and the Americas

**3rd year**
- **AUTUMN QUARTER**
  - Advanced French in Paris
  - European Civilization in Paris I-III

- **WINTER QUARTER**
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis III
  - Linear Algebra

- **SPRING QUARTER**
  - Industrial Organization
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis and Culture III

**4th year**
- **AUTUMN QUARTER**
  - The Search for Extraterrestrial Life
  - The 3.5 Billion Year History of the Human Body

- **WINTER QUARTER**
  - Ecocriticism
  - Industrial Organization

- **SPRING QUARTER**
  - Economic Policy Analysis
  - Star Wars and Religion

**SUMMER**
- Methods in Urban Studies
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis III
  - Language, Art, and Society I

- **SPRING QUARTER**
  - Language, Art, and Society II
  - The Elements of Economic Analysis and Culture III

- **SUMMER**
  - Metcalf Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

*Core Course*
The Core: The Building Blocks

Most Core courses come in integrated, often interdisciplinary, sequences. Students choose their courses in consultation with their College Advisers and faculty counselors.

1. Humanities (2-3 courses)

- Students engage with literary, historical, and philosophical texts through the Humanities Core in the first year.
- Sample courses:
  - Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations
  - Readings in World Literature
  - Human Being and Citizen
  - Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange
  - Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound

2. Social Sciences (3 courses)

- Students examine how societies are organized through the Social Sciences Core, usually in the first or second year.
- Sample courses:
  - Self, Culture, and Society
  - Power, Identity, Resistance
  - Mind
  - Classics of Social and Political Thought
  - Social Science Inquiry

3. Civilization (2-3 courses)

- Students encounter the history, culture, and literature of an area of the world either on our campus or through one of our study abroad programs.
- Sample courses:
  - History of European Civilization
  - Jewish Civilization
  - America in World Civilization
  - Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations (in Jerusalem, Israel)
  - Beijing: East Asian Civilizations (in Beijing, China)
  - Civilization in the Western Mediterranean (in Barcelona, Spain)

4. Art, Music, or Drama (1-2 courses)

- Students choose among courses in the theory or practice of the arts in our Art History, Music, Theater and Performance Studies, Creative Writing, or Visual Arts programs.
- Sample courses:
  - Frank Lloyd Wright in Chicago and Beyond
  - Introduction to Western Art Music
  - Visual Language
  - Staging Terror

5. Biological Sciences (2-3 courses)

- Students choose among course options that explore the process of scientific inquiry in the biological sciences.
- Sample courses:
  - The Principles of Microbiology/Global Infectious Diseases
  - Metabolism and Exercise
  - Life through a Genomic Lens
  - Introduction to Social Neuroscience

6. Physical Sciences (2-3 courses)

- Students are exposed to scientific observation and reasoning in Core physical sciences courses.
- Sample courses:
  - Modern Physics
  - Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast
  - Black Holes
  - Chemistry and the Atmosphere

7. Mathematics (1-2 courses)

- Students develop skills in formal reasoning and logic in mathematics courses.
- Sample courses:
  - Calculus
  - Elementary Statistics
  - Multimedia Programming as an Interdisciplinary Art
  - Honors Introduction to Computer Science

8. Foreign Language

- Students are expected to demonstrate language skills equivalent to one year of college study.
- Among the many languages offered are:
  - American Sign Language
  - Arabic
  - Chinese
  - Portuguese

- Credit may be granted through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or placement exams.

“The Core is premised in part on the conviction that there are key critical skills necessary not only to prepare you to master a discipline once you’ve decided which one you’d like to take up, but also to give you the capacity to view your chosen discipline from a point a little bit outside of its claims and justifications. This ‘outsider perspective’ is important because to believe in the incomparable power of a disciplinary methodology is to take ideas quite seriously. (And if there’s anything that defines the University of Chicago, it is taking ideas seriously.) To take one’s ideas seriously is to believe that they will produce good results when applied to the world.”

Kathleen Warren
FairTax: Core Distinguished Service Professor; Department of English; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; and Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities