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

SPRING QUARTER
- Introduction to Black Chicago, 1893-2010
- 19th Century French Art in the Art Institute
- Biology Evolution
- The Elements of Economic Analysis I
- Urban Policy Analysis
- Self, Culture, and Society I

WINTER QUARTER
- The Discovery of Egypt in the Age of European Enlightenment and Its Aftermath
- The Elements of Economic Analysis II
- Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences
- Self, Culture, and Society II
- French Language History and Culture II

SUMMER
- Methods in Urban Studies
- Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

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, 1893-2010
- 19th Century French Art in the Art Institute
- Biology Evolution
- The Elements of Economic Analysis I
- Urban Policy Analysis
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- The Elements of Economic Analysis II
- Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences
- Self, Culture, and Society II
- French Language History and Culture II

SUMMER
- Methods in Urban Studies
- Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

2nd 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, 1893-2010
- 19th Century French Art in the Art Institute
- Biology Evolution
- The Elements of Economic Analysis I
- Urban Policy Analysis
- Self, Culture, and Society I

WINTER QUARTER
- The Discovery of Egypt in the Age of European Enlightenment and Its Aftermath
- The Elements of Economic Analysis II
- Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences
- Self, Culture, and Society II
- French Language History and Culture II

SUMMER
- Methods in Urban Studies
- Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

3rd 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, 1893-2010
- 19th Century French Art in the Art Institute
- Biology Evolution
- The Elements of Economic Analysis I
- Urban Policy Analysis
- Self, Culture, and Society I

WINTER QUARTER
- The Discovery of Egypt in the Age of European Enlightenment and Its Aftermath
- The Elements of Economic Analysis II
- Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences
- Self, Culture, and Society II
- French Language History and Culture II

SUMMER
- Methods in Urban Studies
- Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust

4th year

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

WINTER QUARTER
- Econometrics
- Introduction to Program Evaluation
- Chernobyl: Bodies and Nature After Disaster
- Artificial Intelligence for Public Policy

SPRING QUARTER
- Economic Policy Analysis
- Ape and Human Evolution
- Star Wars and Religion

SUMMER
- Internship in the U.S. Government Accountability Office

WINTER QUARTER
- Topics in International Macroeconomics
- From Fossils to Farm’s Paradox: Origin and Evolution of Intelligent Life
- French Language History and Culture II

SUMMER
- Internship in the U.S. Government Accountability Office

“Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons, inflame their intelligents, teach them to think straight, if possible.”

Robert Maynard Hutchins
President of the University of Chicago, 1929-51

The Core brings undergraduates and faculty members together in this wide-ranging conversation. Small, discussion-based classes and an emphasis on primary texts evoke the debates that have shaped the world we live in. We examine—and reexamine—questions that philosophers, psychologists, economists, biologists, writers, and social theorists have been grappling with for centuries:

- What defines the human experience?
- Are humans molded by genetics, culture, and history, or by an underlying human nature?
- How should we understand rational thought? Is it independent of context?
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
   **Sample texts**
   - Homer, Iliad
   - Aristotle, Poetics
   - Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
   - Fritz Lang, Metropolis (1927)
   - Susan Sontag, "Notes on 'Camp'"

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
   **Sample texts**
   - Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks
   - Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations
   - Karl Marx, Capital: Critique of Political Economy
   - Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex
   - Plato, Republic
   - Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

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
   **Sample texts**
   - Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks
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   - Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex
   - Plato, Republic
   - Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan

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
   **Sample texts**
   - Aristotle, Poetics
   - Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man
   - Fritz Lang, Metropolis (1927)
   - Susan Sontag, "Notes on 'Camp'"

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
   - Urdu
   **Sample courses**
   - Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks
   - Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations
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   - Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex
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Larry McEnerney  AM'80; Senior Lecturer; Humanities Colonel Division; Director of University Writing Programs

I treasure my Core courses because they carve out time and space for complexity. To be sure, we’re often pushed to simplify—the need to act often justifies seeing things as simple. But we’re complex creatures; our lives are complex experiences; the world is a complex place. For me, the Core is a rare and precious opportunity to uncover complexity and give it power; I hope my students walk away with the skills, and perhaps a taste for grappling with it.”
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Sample courses
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- 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

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

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

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

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- 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 ‘outside 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.”

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

### 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, 1895-2010
- 19th Century French Art
- The Art Institute

**SUMMER**
- Methods in Urban Studies

**2nd year**

**AUTUMN QUARTER**
- The Elements of Economic Analysis I
- Urban Policy Analysis
- Self, Culture, and Society I
  We studied the great thinkers who developed the social sciences that exist today, from anthropology to sociology to economics.

**WINTER QUARTER**
- The Elements of Economic Analysis II
- Mathematical Methods for Social Sciences
- Self, Culture, and Society II
- The Discovery of Egypt in the Age of European Enlightenment and Its Aftermath
  This class has been my absolute favorite over the course of my college career! My final paper traced the popularity of King Tut’s artifacts across different phases in Egyptian politics.

**SPRING QUARTER**
- Topics in International Macroeconomics
- From Fossils to Fermi’s Paradox: Origin and Evolution of Intelligent Life
- French Language History and Culture II

**SUMMER**
- Internship at the AFL-CIO Housing Accountability Office

**3rd year**

**AUTUMN QUARTER**
- Advanced French in Paris
- European Civilization in Paris I-III
  I completed the Civilization Core requirement studying European Civilizations in Paris! As such, our Socratic-style discussions on European history were supplemented with field trips to sites around Paris and across France, including to the Louvre, Versailles, chateaus across the Loire Valley, and World War II trenches.

**WINTER QUARTER**
- Topics in International Macroeconomics
- The Elements of Economic Analysis III
- Linear Algebra
- Experimental Economics
- Self, Culture, and Society III

**SPRING QUARTER**
- Industrial Organization
- French Language History and Culture III
- Dinosaurs Science

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

**4th year**

**AUTUMN QUARTER**
- The Search for Extraterrestrial Life
- The 3.5 Billion Year History of the Human Body
  We traced the evolutionary and developmental history of each system of the human body, even describing how you can see evidence of the Big Bang within ourselves!
- Statistical Theory and Methods I
- Undergraduate Honors Workshop

**WINTER QUARTER**
- Econometrics
- Introduction to Program Evaluation
- Chernobyl: Bodies and Nature After Disaster
- Artificial Intelligence for Public Policy

**SPRING QUARTER**
- Economic Policy Analysis
- Ape and Human Evolution
- Star Wars and Religion
  Did you know that George Lucas referenced religious texts when creating the mythology of Star Wars?

**SUMMER**
- Internship in the U.S. Government Accountability Office

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“Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds: widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, teach them to think straight, if possible.”

Robert Maynard Hutchins
President of the University of Chicago, 1929-51

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*The Core experience—joining a conversation that spans many cultures and disciplines.*

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The Core’s primary texts engage a set of shared concerns and issues, but this material evolves as faculty members reframe fundamental questions and principles across high and low cultures, in and out of Western traditions, and from the perspective of both past and present. Students may discuss Thucydides’ account of the Peloponnesian War as a product of Greek culture but also as a lens for journalistic reporting on current events in the Middle East.

A vital tenet of the Core is that interdisciplinary collaboration can illuminate complex problems—and that this exploration is best achieved when students are well-versed in multiple disciplines.

The Core offers broad exposure to the >

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*For more information, visit: collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu*