

Chess.com University

Chess 013: Opening Proficiency for 1200-1500 Players

Class Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Kairav Joshi

Skype & Chess.com Username: GeniusKJ

Email: (Will be available to students taking the class).

Textbook and Course Materials

Optional Text: *Discovering Chess Openings* by John Emms.

Course Requirements

Computer & Internet Access Required.

Proficiency In Written English Required.

1-Month Chess.com Diamond Membership Required.

Course Structure

This chess class will be delivered entirely online through various mediums including Chess.com, Skype, Livestream.com, KairavAcademy.com, and Email.

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Part 2: Course Objectives

- Learn all of the content a 1200 – 1500 ELO chess player should know regarding the opening phase of the game.
- Master applying opening principles to practical opening positions.
- Gain knowledge regarding typical strategic and tactical themes in the opening.
- Learn important opening systems as Black and White.
- Improve key chess skills such as calculating, evaluating, basic planning, etc.
- Learn how to study openings on your own.

You will be able to learn all of the content a 1200 – 1500 player should know regarding the opening phase of the game by reading assigned articles, lecture notes, our chess textbook, watching videos, and by attending/watching the live lectures.

Because this course is training-based and emphasizes learning-by-doing, the live lectures will be interactive. While having some opening knowledge is important, there is a lot more to opening play than memorizing some variations. Being able to apply principles and improve skills such as visualization, calculation, evaluation, analyzing, and planning, is far more important.

A key objective will be to improve your overall chess thinking skills, especially during the opening. Completing class assignments on time will be important if you want to get the most out of this class.

After taking this class, students will be able to play proficiently in the opening and know how to study openings. Active over-the-board players should see their rating improve.

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Part 3: Course Topics and Schedule

[Subject to change]

Chapter 1: Prerequisites and the Basics

Chapter 2: Opening Principles and Basic Applications

Chapter 3: Strategic and Tactical Opening Themes

Chapter 4: Openings for White

Chapter 5: Openings for Black

Chapter 6: Proficiency in Opening Thinking

Chapter 7: Advanced Topics: Research, How to Create a Repertoire, etc.

As I am still designing the class, the chapter names may change or be reorganized.

Course topics, besides opening principles and learning openings, include relevant tactical and strategic themes. For example, concepts such as the isolated queen pawn, closed/open positions, initiative, premature attack, etc. may be briefly covered as knowing these concepts are important. Our openings coverage will be broad but students will also learn a system against 1.e4 and 1.d4 as well as learn several openings as White.

Class starts on Saturday, Sept. 14th, 2013 at 12:30 PM PDT (Pacific Time, USA).