

## Chess.com University

### Chess 024: Opening Repertoire for 1500-1800 Players Part 1: Black vs. 1.e4

#### Class Syllabus

#### Part 1: Course Information

##### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Kairav Joshi

**Skype & Chess.com Username:** GeniusKJ

**Email:** (Will be provided to students taking the class)

##### Textbook and Course Materials

**Class Textbook:** *Chess Openings for Black, Explained* by Lev Alburt, Roman Dzindzichashvili, and Eugene Perelshteyn (revised (2<sup>nd</sup>) edition preferred).

Available at Kairav's online Amazon bookstore:

<http://astore.amazon.com/kairacad-20?node=1&page=3>

There may be better priced copies available elsewhere such as [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com).

##### Course Requirements

Computer & Internet Access Required.

Proficiency In Written English Required.

1-Month Chess.com Diamond Membership Required.

##### Course Structure

**Opening Repertoire for 1500-1800 Players: Black vs. 1.e4** will be delivered entirely online using mediums including Livestream.com, Dropbox.com, KairavAcademy.com, Chess.com, and email.

**Class Syllabus**

**Part 2: Course Objectives**

- Hone your abilities to apply opening principles.
- Learn how to study openings using books, databases, engines, etc.
- Understand how engines “think” during the opening.
- Learn an opening repertoire for Black vs. 1.e4.
  - The repertoire for Chess 024 employs the powerful 1...c5 move.
  - Most openings covered will have “dragonish” tendencies.
  - Repertoire vs. Smith-Morra, Grand Prix, Open/Closed Sicilian, etc.
- Learn how to customize and build onto the repertoire provided in class.
- Improve at planning and calculating in the opening.
- Get better at playing chess!

Resources students will use to learn openings include articles, videos, chess mentor courses, opening databases, class written lectures, class assignments with feedback, class opening notes (PGN), live lectures, and the class textbook.

Because this course is training-based and emphasizes learning-by-doing, the live lectures will be interactive. The class assignments will be engaging and will require some effort from the students. It is important that students improve their opening skills and understand the systems rather than simply memorize lines. Opponents will always deviate so it is important that your knowledge and understanding of a given chess opening goes beyond a particular line. It is equally important to be able to go home after a game and learn from it. Did your opponent surprise you in the opening? Did that lead to a loss? What will you do differently next time? Indeed, ending up in an opening disaster can be a great learning experience!

A key objective of this course will be improving chess thinking abilities, especially during the opening. With the newfound knowledge, students will also be prepared to identify and punish White’s opening errors. After taking this class, students will have a new level of confidence as Black against 1.e4.

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#### **Part 3: Course Topics and Schedule**

[Subject to minor modifications]

Chapter 1: Applying Opening Principles

Chapter 2: Chess Engines and Resources for Opening Study

Chapter 3: Wing Gambit and 2.b3

Chapter 4: Sicilian Alapin Variation and Smith-Morra Gambit

Chapter 5: Closed Sicilian and the Grand Prix Attack

Chapter 6: Accelerated Dragon

Chapter 7: Maroczy Bind

Chapter 8: Other Sidelines

Chapter 9: Advanced Topic: Opening Research and Enhancing Your Repertoire

As I am still designing the class, the chapter names may slightly change or get rearranged. The content is also subject to minor modifications.

**Class starts on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1:30 PM PDT (Pacific Time, USA).**