Chess is challenging and fun to play … but many of us don’t play as well as we would like. Come with us and we will study together major openings (Ruy-Lopez, Italian, Sicilian, Queens Gambit, etc), principles of end-game play, and exciting bar-room traps like the Fried Liver Attack, the Legal’ and Evans gambits, the Max Lange attack, etc. The course will consist of short videos on important aspects of the game, review of links to important sources and statistics, discussion of what we have seen, and live play. In addition to videos on the openings, we may follow some famous games move for move, and/or play “together”; there will also be a set of video lectures from an international grand master. This course is best for those who already know how to play but want to improve.

*No texts are required – handouts will be provided by email in advance of the course*

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**Class # | Date | Session Content (Class Size limited to 15)**
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1. Jan 17  
   Introduction: Moves, Rules & Basics: Chess Notation, Scholars Mate  
   General Strategy & Tactics, Importance of the Center

2. Jan 24  
   Pawn Formations & Play, End Game Mates; Tactical Combinations  
   (GM Video)

3. Jan 31  
   Openings: The Ruy Lopez/Variations; Checkmates (GM Video)

4. Feb 7  
   Openings: The Italian Opening/ Various Traps; Castle Attacks (GM Video)

5. Feb 14  
   Openings: The Sicilian Defense/Fisher/Poisoned Pawn Traps; Positional  
   Rook Play (GM Video)

6. Feb 21  
   Openings: The Center Counter / Petroff / French Positional Pawn Play  
   (GM video)

7. Feb 28  
   Openings: The Queens Gambit Accepted / Declined; Identifying  
   Weaknesses (GM Video)

8. Mar 7  
   Modern Chess: Players, Ratings, Clocks & Tournaments;  
   Openings: The Indian Defenses; Closed/Open Positions (GM Video)

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**IMPORTANT**

If you are unable to attend the first session of the class, or if you have decided to drop the class, please notify the facilitator either by e-mail or telephone.