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# SYLLABUS: BRIDGE FOR SCHOLARS 2018

## INSTRUCTOR

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GS 100A is an introduction to the game of bridge. Bridge is an invigorating pastime; it demands and rewards problem-solving based on communication, inference, and planning. Contract bridge is also a discipline, with an extensive literature and local, national, and international organizations. Your course fee in part defrays your membership in the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). The membership is good for one year and includes a subscription to the *ACBL Bulletin*.

About half the course consists of in-class presentations, supervised play and graded assignments. Open play against experienced players makes up the other half.

## MEETINGS

The course will meet daily, from 1:15 to 4:45 p.m., in WCC 254, and at other times as outlined in the course schedule.

## BOOKS

The instructor will provide the books and other materials at no additional cost.

Audrey Grant. *Introduction to Bridge. Bidding*. 1990 (2002). ACBL

Audrey Grant. *Introduction to Bridge. Play of the Hand*. 1988 (1997, 2002). ACBL

## ONLINE

Assignments for the course are to be submitted to our Moodle site. Moodle will also have links to the presentations. The course website (<http://cml.austincollege.edu/bfs/>) also has links to presentations and course documents. Game results for all events in the course will also be posted there. The site also has other information of interest including CBO games, locations, etc.

## YOUR GRADE

### PASSING (S-D-U GRADING)

In order to pass this course all students must meet the following requirements. (If you have enrolled on an "A-F" basis, your grade will be determined by this and an additional computation; see below.)

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- ♠ Participate fully in every class meeting.
- ♠ Play in 15 collegiate daily tournaments on Bridge Base Online
- ♠ Satisfactorily complete and submit all assigned lab reports.
- ♠ Score 70 or higher on each of the three tests. (There will be a second chance for those who initially score below 70; a score 80 is required on the retest for passing.)
- ♠ Participate in at least five sanctioned open duplicate games, including at least two on campus,
- ♠ Participate in the tournament in Denton January 13, and the open game in McKinney, January 18.

## A-F GRADING

What follows applies to you only if you have enrolled on an "A-F" basis. If you do not meet all the requirements listed above, regardless how many points you accumulate, your grade will be "F." Assuming that you meet the requirements above, your grade will be computed on a standard 100 point scale, as follows.

<i>40 points</i>	The Average of three tests, equally weighted
<i>15 points</i>	Participate in five sanctioned open games, including one on campus. Any games in January, even after January 26 may also be counted.
<i>10 points</i>	Play in the tournament in Denton January 13 and the open game in McKinney, January 18
<i>15 points</i>	Play in 15 CBO tournaments
<i>24 points</i>	Four Lab reports
<i>bonus points</i>	Bonus Points may be earned in a variety of ways, including winning or placing in a sanctioned duplicate game, additional sessions in sanctioned games, winning or placing in class championships, particularly insightful lab reports, and other projects developed in consultation with the instructor.

## TESTS

All aspects of the course will be included on the tests: formal presentations, readings, and materials treated in lab assignments. Tests are cumulative: each test includes material from previous tests.

- ♥ Test 01    January 05

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- ♥ Test 02     January 12
- ♥ Test 03     January 19

I will provide an archive of tests used in past years (test01, test02, test03) on the course website; tests in 2018 will use a similar format.

## LABS

Lab assignments 01-04 have two parts: one part involving 16 hands on the instructional program “Bridge Master” and another part involving your analysis of your own play.

Lab	Due date	Bridge Master	Play analysis
01	Jan 04	Level 1. A1-A16	One board played (declarer): Jan 03
02	Jan 10	Level 1: A17-A 32	Two boards played (declarer): Jan 08 -09
03	Jan 17	Level 2: A1-A16	Three boards played (declarer): Jan 12 - 16
04	Jan 23	Level 2: A17-A32	Three boards played (defender): Jan 18 - 21
05	Jan 24	Assigned Essay	

Templates and detailed instructions are provided on Moodle

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Bridge is a social game. Accordingly, collaboration on lab assignments is allowed, **provided you note in your report with whom you collaborated and how.** You are responsible to write up your own report—joint reports or identical reports will be assessed as inadequate completion of the assignment.

Tests are strictly individual efforts and the usual constraints apply: no discussion, no screens, and no books. A violation of this principle will result in a course grade of “F” or “U.”

## SOFTWARE

All the software for this course is accessible in the Abell Library. Your course fees have defrayed the cost of site licenses for these programs. You may purchase your own copy of Bridge Master for about \$50

- ♥ “Learn Bridge.” Fred Gitelman. This is an introduction to bridge, a free program sponsored by the ACBL. Click [for Free Download](#) (Windows only)

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- ♥ [“Bridge Master 2000.”](#) Fred Gitelman. Bridge Base. Las Vegas, NV. This is a tutorial program that focuses on the play of the hand, on five skill levels. The deals are constructed to teach principles of play. Lab reports will require analysis of designated deals in this program and all tests will require you to analyze deals from this program.
- ♥ “Bridge Base Online:” ([www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)).. This website supports open play and other features useful in this course, including the Daily Collegiate Individual 8-board tournaments. Lab reports will include analysis of your own play on the site, based on the hand records you download of your play.

## SANCTIONED GAMES

You are required to participate in five sanctioned ACBL duplicate games during the course. Games are available for a small fee (\$3.00) with the Sherman Duplicate Bridge Club (SDBC) Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Finley Cultural Center, 501 N. Elm, Sherman. Arrange in advance for a partner, or let me know in class the day you want to play. If you arrive after 6:10 pm, you will not be admitted to the game.

Sanctioned games will also be held on campus on Wednesday, January 10 and 17, at 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday afternoon, January 21 at 4 p.m. (pizza at 5:30) Arrive with a partner at least 20 minutes early, so you will have time to prepare your convention card, etc.

Away games include the tournament in Denton, January 13, and an open game in McKinney, January 18. We will work out details for transportation in class.

Games are also available at many other locations in the North Texas area. See your instructor if you want to arrange course credit for a game at one of these clubs.

## DRIVING TO GAMES

The course requires attendance at sanctioned games off campus. Your transportation to and from these events must comply with college policy. See Moodle and the syllabus appendix for detailed instructions

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## APPENDIX

...FROM THE CURRENT AUSTIN COLLEGE OPERATIONAL GUIDE. (JANUARY 2016)

Student Drivers: Students who are driving other students to events that are required for a class or required as part of a College-sponsored activity must be: 1) a licensed driver, 2) have a clean driving record and 3) must have taken the on-line driving test available through the Campus Police office. Drivers who meet these conditions will be called "authorized student drivers." Authorization is valid for one academic year. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the College if anything occurs during that period that would make them ineligible for authorized student driver status.

...Vehicle: Vehicles used to transport students on a trip required for a course or as part of a College-sponsored activity, must: 1) have a valid registration and inspection and 2) be insured. Vehicles that meet these conditions will be called "authorized vehicles." Authorization is valid for one academic year.