

Expanded Course Description: Bridge is arguably one of the best games ever, combining unmasterably complex strategy (like chess) with teamwork, analysis, and a very small dose of quantifiable luck, all with just 52 cards. Through this course, students study all aspects of this rigorously challenging yet social game, including the bidding and scoring. They learn the intricate language of partnership bidding and ultimately adapt conventions for themselves. They also learn the etiquette and variations associated with tournament play. Ultimately, all members of the class play at the Grand Rapids Bridge Club and possibly begin to earn Masterpoints. To begin to master the game, students train their logical problem solving, mathematical decision-making, and partnership building skills. More importantly, students develop an appreciation for a mentally invigorating game that they will enjoy for the rest of their communal lives. Students will also be encouraged to join the nearly 160,000-member American Contract Bridge League. For evaluation, class members compete against each other in informal tournaments, take regular quizzes that promote problem solving and informational learning, and write essays on the place of leisure activities in life.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Learn to bid, play and score the game of contract bridge
- 2) Learn to teach others how to play
- 3) Consider the proper place of leisure activities in life

Class Time: learning to play bridge takes thoughtful practice. Therefore, class time will be divided into six modes:

- 1) Journaling: students will take 5 – 10 minutes to journal on an assigned topic daily.
- 2) Learning: Students take notes and ask questions about the game and games in general.
- 3) Quizzing: Almost every day there will be at least one quiz to stimulate learning.
- 4) Drilling: Students conduct various practice drills designed to build skill in certain aspects of the game *e.g.* Hand evaluation, bidding, pre-play assessment, suit attack.
- 5) Playing & Analyzing: Students play bridge, analyzing each hand together.
- 6) Competing: Students compete according to ACBL regulations against each other and thereby measure their personal progress and stimulate their desire to get better.

Journaling: it is my goal to start each day with 5 – 10 minutes of journaling on an assigned topic.

Quizzes: there will be daily quizzes designed to reinforce basics that are essential to becoming a competent bridge player.

Readings: Throughout the interim, readings will be assigned on the Christian perspective on work, play, and worship.

Field Trips: At least twice during the interim, the entire class will travel to the Grand Rapids Bridge Club. These will likely be on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons (club starts at 12:15) or Monday or Friday evenings (club starts at 6:30).

Final Essay: each student will write a final essay on the role of leisure in their life.

Final Tournament: The final day of class will be an official tournament executed according to the standards of the American Contract Bridge League. Everyone is required to participate. Trophies will be awarded.