

BSAN 179 – CHESS
Spring Semester 2026

Instructor: Dr. John Rasp
Email: jrasp@stetson.edu
Email is the best way to contact me. I check email frequently during the work day (and much less frequently evenings and weekends).
Office hours: Mondays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.
Or by appointment
Office hours are held in the LBC lobby.
Website: www.johnraspstats.net
Class meeting: Wednesdays, 2:35 – 3:45 p.m., 319 LBC

Course credit: One credit, pass/fail grading

Course objectives: By the end of this course, you should be able to play a credible game of chess. That is, you should be capable of beating most people in a casual game, and be ready to compete in formal rated tournament play. Proficiency in chess will also sharpen your analytic and problem-solving skills. But the most important objective of the class is to have fun playing chess.

Equipment: Chess sets will be provided for classroom use.
Students are encouraged to obtain their own sets for personal use.
No textbook is required for the course.

Methods of instruction: Weekly class sessions will normally have a “lecture” component (explaining concepts in the game of chess) and a “lab” component (with students actively playing chess or working on chess problems).

In addition, each week there will be a homework assignment covering chess topics. Homework is due at the beginning of the next class period.

Classroom behavior: Regular, punctual class attendance is expected. Mature professional behavior is expected of all in the class. This includes regular, on-time class attendance, active and non-disruptive participation in class activities, and respectful behavior towards others in the class. Moreover, should we see a reprise of the coronavirus pandemic (or the zombie apocalypse, or whatever), all are expected to follow established health norms and university policy (face masks, social distancing, etc.). Violation of these norms is warrant for a failing grade in the course. But this warning shouldn’t be necessary. We’re all adults – we can behave as such, while enjoying the class and enabling others to do so as well.

Grading: Grading is simply pass/fail; there are no letter grades for the course. In order to pass, you must attend and participate in class each week, and do the weekly homework assignments in a timely manner. Being late to class counts as half an absence. You are allowed one absence and one missed homework without penalty. Any absences or missed homework beyond that will require makeup work assigned as needed on a sliding scale. (This will be much harder and/or time-consuming than simply doing things according to schedule.)