

## Chess - Winterim 2026

**Course Description:** This class will cater to students of all levels of chess, whether someone who has never played or learned the rules, as well as more experienced players. Beginners will learn the basic rules: how to set up the board, how pieces move, and the game objectives. Intermediate players will learn tactics as well as more advanced positional theory. Everyone will have a chance to play most days and they will be paired up so that they are usually playing someone at a similar level. At the end of Winterim we will hold an in-class chess tournament, and I will also play a simultaneous tournament against the class.

Chess also entails many intellectual and cultural/historical considerations that will also be addressed during class that may occasionally bring up sensitive issues (The Cold War, women and chess, Artificial Intelligence, etc.), though they will not usually be the main focus of discussions.

**Materials:** Students are welcome to bring their own boards, but I have plenty onsite to use, so this is not a requirement.

**Cost:** None

### Media Release

We will spend time in class studying a few famous games by American masters (Bobby Fischer, Hikaru Nakamura, and Fabiano Caruana) and perhaps a few relevant scenes from movies and TV that I have vetted beforehand for appropriate content, mostly to show chess's symbolic significance in culture and to showcase appropriate game grit and sportsmanship. Scenes will come from *The Seventh Seal* (1957), *Searching for Bobby Fischer* (1993), *Pawn Sacrifice* (2019), and *The Queen's Gambit* (2020).

If you would like to opt out of any of these scenes or would like more information regarding content or why they have been chosen for this course, please email me at [ealder@apamail.org](mailto:ealder@apamail.org).

Thank you and I look forward to an amazing Winterim experience!

Erik Alder



Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_