

2011 Class Schedule

These are the classes currently scheduled by Houston Card School. If you have an interest in something particular that is not listed you can be added to my Notifications email List. Members of this list get an email when a new class is posted. If there is a class topic you would like to see you can email me with your request.

gary@houstoncardschool.com.

To pre-register for any class....

Send name, address, telephone, and email address along with class fee to:

Houston Card School
PO Box 752652
Houston, TX 77275

You may make checks payable to Houston Card School.

Sorry due to administrative issues and class materials it is NOT possible to pro-rate classes.

Beginning Fundamentals of Contract Bridge

The absolute best way to become successful at this game is get a solid foundation in the fundamentals. Most bridge players learn from friends or family and I find they have large gaps in basic understanding. These gaps cause problems with later progress.

This class is designed to provide that solid foundation. Although it starts with no assumption about any understanding it is a great primer for those that played some but need direction as well as though that have never played at all.

At the end of this class you will be ready to play in any local party game, office lunch-time game, or novice duplicate game.

Dates: Eight (8) Lesson – Thursdays – March 31 April 7, 21, 28 May 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$125

Dates: Eight (8) Lesson – Thursdays – August 4, 11, 18, 25 September 8, 15, 22, 29

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$125

Beginning Defensive Play

This class series covers all the fundamental aspects of the defensive part of the game. The techniques presented are the building blocks required for accurate defense and you will spend half your time defending!

Topics include:

Opening Lead Against No Trump Contracts
 Opening Lead Against Trump Contracts
 Third Hand Play
 Second Hand Play
 Attitude Signals
 Hold-up Play and Count Signals
 Discards
 Defensive Plan

Dates: Eight (8) Classes – Thursdays – February 3, 10, 17, 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$135

One Day Workshops

This format has proven popular. Each workshop is one day of concentrated focus on a single topic. Lecture starts at Noon and we spend until approximately 3 hours covering a topic in depth in a class room presentation. Then students play 12 hands that allow them the chance to practice new found skills. Following the practice hands we will discuss all 12 hands in detail and point out how the new skills should have been applied. Best taken with your favorite partner, but I will arrange partnerships for singles.

Each workshop is stand alone. Sign up for the ones that appeal to you.

Time: Noon - 6:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee Per Workshop: \$60

Topic: Improve Your Declarer Play - Good techniques and lots of practice in making a plan for the play.

Date: Saturday – March 5

Topic: Powerhouse Hands - Bidding and playing those big 2C hands. These present special challenges.

Date: Saturday – April 9

Topic: Preempts - When and how high to bid, how to avoid common pitfalls and get the most out of those long suits.

Date: Saturday – June 4

Topic: Counting - Learn how to play the hand as though you could see through the backs of the cards.

Date: Saturday – July 16

Topic: Duplicate Pairs Strategy - Learn the concepts on how to think and improve your score.

Date: Saturday – August 27

Topic: Transfers - Your know the basic idea but do you know the details of the follow ups in constructive and competitive auctions?

Date: Saturday – November 5

Intermediate Defensive Play

This class series covers a much more in depth examination of defensive technique. To get the most out of this series you should have a reasonable amount of experience. Perfect for the improving duplicate player.

Topics include:

Opening Lead - Passive, Active, Trump Leads, Choosing the Proper Suit, Choosing the Proper Card
 Third Hand Play - Reading Partner's Lead, Protecting Partner, Guarding Against Honors in the Dummy
 Counting - Counting Distribution, Count High Cards, Counting Tricks
 Count and Attitude Signals - When They Apply, How to Use the Information
 Suit Preference Signals, Trump Echo, and Discards
 Second Hand Play - Covering or Not Covering Honors, Splitting Honors
 Tricks From the Trump Suit and Penalty Doubles
 Lead Directing Doubles and Practice Hands

Dates: Eight (8) Classes – Wednesdays – February 16, 23 March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$160

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Intermediate Play of the Hand

This class series covers a much more in depth examination of declarer technique. To get the most out of this series you should have a reasonable amount of experience. Perfect for the improving duplicate player.

Topics include:

Counting the Defender's Distribution
Percentages - Using Percentages to Determine Your Line of Play
Card Combinations – The Finesse
Pulling Trump – When and Why
Not Pulling Trump at All
Card Combinations – Leading Towards Honors
The Value of an Entry
Maximizing the Value of Honor Cards
Maximizing the Value of Dummy Length
Obvious Entries
Potential Entries
Hidden Entries
Entry Development
Card Combinations – Safety Plays
See a Finesse, Take a Finesse
You Know the Rule of Eleven, But Do You Use It?
When the Defense Leads a Sequence
Card Combinations – When the Opponents Lead the Suit
Interference with Communications
Distracting the Opposition
Distracting with Discards
Rule of Restricted Choice
Elimination or Throw-in Plays
Simple Squeeze Play
Blocking Plays
Practice Hands

Dates: Eight (8) Classes – Wednesdays – May 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22 July 6, 13

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$160

Structured Play

This three class series gives students and their partners a chance to bid, play, and defend a set of hands first and then discuss all the aspects in detail. Each class is comprised of 12 hands to test your working knowledge and correct bad habits. Best taken with your regular partner but I will help arrange partners for singles.

Dates: Three (3) Classes – Wednesdays – September 7, 14, 21

Time: 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$60

Bridge Study Group

A class series where the students are in charge! Strictly limited to a class size of 16 students. As a group we will decide what to cover and discuss. Topics can include anything from bidding, conventions, play, or defense. I have a few ideas but the class gets to decide.

Dates: Four (4) Classes – Wednesdays – September 28 October 5, 12, 19

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$80

Conventions You Should Know

The class series covers six of the most popular conventions needed to improve your bidding.

Negative Doubles
Responsive Doubles
Transfers
Lebensohl
Jacoby 2NT
Splinter Bids

Dates: Three (3) Classes – Wednesdays – November 2, 9, 16

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: [Houston Bridge Studio](#)

Class Fee: \$60