

JNST OOOG

Poker and the Meaning of Life: Psychology, Probability, Strategy, and Fate

Dr. Fred Rabinowitz

Spring 2019 Fridays 1-3:50 pm

Anticipation, Hope, Fear, Risk, Joy, Pain, and Loss... This seminar will focus on the parallels between Texas Hold'em poker and life. We will study the poker strategies of the experts, learn to analyze our potential odds on any given hand, be mindful of our opponents and the signals they are sending, and then reflect on the deeper meaning of this cerebral, emotional, and fatalistic game. We will read about the history of poker, watch professionals play hands, and do extensive research on various aspects of the game. Ultimately we will play in poker tournaments, keep track of our plays, critique our games, and spend time discussing how poker might be useful to our relationships, the decisions we make every day, and acceptance of our fate. The three-hour weekly class session will involve demonstrations, discussion, and play. We will not only analyze problems, but also reflect on the meaning of the strategies, moves, and situational variable as they relate to your life decision-making. No previous poker experience is necessary.

