Games and Culture:
Politics, Pleasure and Pedagogy
Perspective: The Humanities

What does the study of culture teach us about games?

What do games teach us about the study of culture?
Questions

• What role do games play in culture? (Huizinga, Caillois)

• What role does culture play in games? How do games use culture? How do they model culture?

• Can we use games to teach about culture and, if so, how?

• Can we teach on the role played by culture in ethnic, religious and national conflicts by using games?
Goal: students will be able to treat games as cultural products and discuss analytically the ways they model culture
Themes:

games and history

games and war

“serious” games vs. “fun” games

games and literature

games and local culture

games and social intervention

games, race and gender
short board/card games
long board games
serious games
short(er) computer games
This War of Mine
long computer games