

# Board Games (Eurogames): Game Analysis & Strategy

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## INSTRUCTOR

Jan Sigvartsen PhD

Leanne Sigvartsen MCouns

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Tarragindi.org

## AGE

10 -18

## FORMAT

In-person

## HOURS

17 hours (make up classes available)

## CLASS OVERVIEW

“German/European Style” board gaming (Eurogames) is an exciting game genre that developed in the late 1970's. Eurogames are a class of complex board games that teach strategy and critical thought (more on the level of chess), but are also designed to be highly social, engaging, collaborative, and suitable for those aged 10 and upwards. Eurogames are very popular globally because they are not simple party games heavily built on luck, nor are they highly adversarial, where players are eliminated. Rather, there are multiple ways to earn points, games are shorter (30-90 minutes), and all players are engaged and use teachable strategies based on critical thought to play until the unpredictable end. Players do not have to be in conflict with others – they can build alliances and are resource or strategy-based (not conflict-based) making them ideal social games.

In this class, conveniently held in the Berrien Springs Community Library, you will learn how to play a number of “German/European Style” strategy and critical board games and, at the end, compete in a local tournament with prizes (if you want to). You will develop critical thinking skills, learn how to be a good sport, and master screen-free social gaming where you can see and develop friendships with your fellow players.

Some of the games we have available to learn to play include: Settlers of Catan (plus expansions), Ticket to Ride (plus variations), Carcassonne, Goa, Pirate's Cove, Alhambra, Caylus Magna Carta, Prince of Florence, In the Year of the Dragon, Attika, Tikal, Java, Mare Nostrum, China, El Grande, Puerto Rico, Tigris and Euphrates, St Petersburg, Patrician – Towering Glory, Ark of the Covenant, Louie XIV, Yspahan, and Thurn and Taxis.

A parent or guardian over 18 can accompany you if they would like to, but it is not required. Friends or siblings under 18 must be registered with the Parent Partnership in order to participate.

## CLASS TIMES

Week 1 – Orientation - August 26 or 28 at 6pm – 8pm (at the Berrien Springs Old Courthouse)

**Then at the Berrien Springs Community Library,**

- Tuesday 6pm – 8pm (8x 2-hour classes, starting October 7 until November 18)
- Thursday 6pm – 8pm (8x 2-hour classes, starting October 9 until November 20)

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

You bring a positive attitude, we'll bring the games and the snacks!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1, August 26 or 28	ORIENTATION – OLD COURTHOUSE – August 26 <u>or</u> 28
Berrien Springs History Center – 313 N Cass St, Berrien Springs August 26, 2025 - 6-8 pm <u>or</u> August 28, 2025 – 6-8 pm	All students undertaking Dr Jan Sigvartsen's five Parent Partnership classes this semester are required to attend orientation. There are two scheduled orientation times – <b>you only have to attend <u>one</u> of these scheduled orientations</b>
WEEK 2, October 7 or 9	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 3, October 14 or 16	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 4, October 21 or 23	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 5, October 28 or 30	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 6, November 4 or 6	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 7, November 11 or 13	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.
WEEK 8, November 18 or 20	BERRIEN SPRINGS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Berrien Springs Community Library 215 W Union Street, Berrien Springs	Learn a new game that the group would like to play from the list on page 1.

## YOUR PROJECT

You may like to research one of the game creators and why they created this game. You may also like to investigate strategies that have been proposed for winning a particular game. You may also like to investigate how “German/European Style” games differ from games from other regions.

## ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Jan Sigvartsen PhD has taught Archaeology and Ancient Religion classes at Andrews University, Michigan, and the Theologische Hochschule Friedensau, Germany, where he was also their PhD Programs Coordinator and Associate Director of their Institute of Biblical Studies and Archaeology. He has participated in archeological digs in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and currently

directs the *Tarragindi Archaeological Dig* in Berrien Springs. He is a board gaming collector and enthusiast (like many of the people in the ancient, prehistoric, and historic periods that he studied academically). He believes you can learn a lot about a culture by the games they play. Dr Jan even came third in the Michigan state finals for an international tournament for *Settlers of Catan*.

Leanne Sigvartsen originally trained as a psychologist in Australia and spent many years as a counselor and academic advisor for teens and young adults. She then transitioned to research project management, working on a number of projects, most recently as the Research and Special Projects Director at the Chicago-based *Center for Collaborative Study of Trauma, Health Equity, and Neurobiology*. She is a triple citizen of the United States, Australia, and Malta, and has lived in the United States, Australia, and Germany. She wants to see young people succeed, be happy, and grow into thriving adults - especially those who have experienced trauma and adverse childhood experiences.