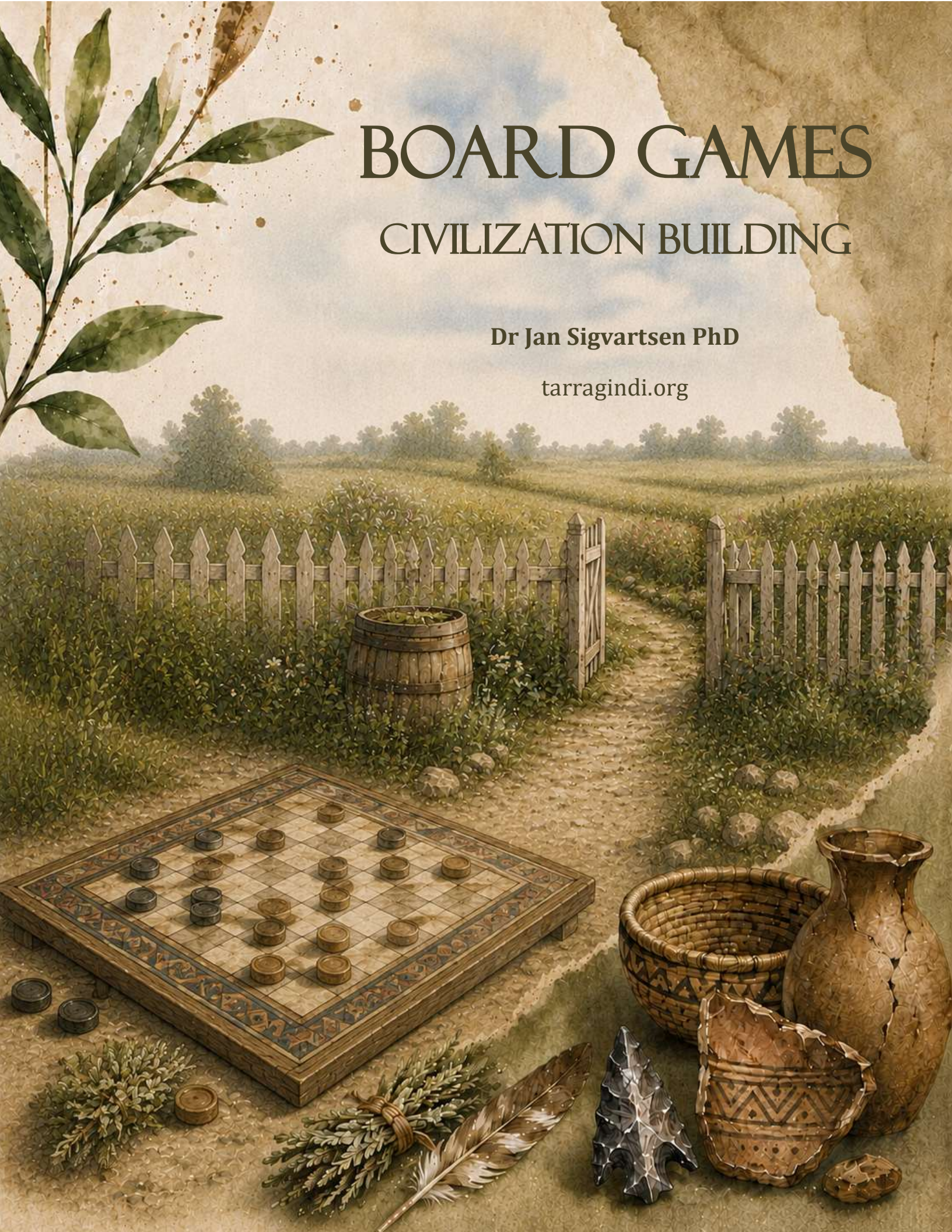
BOARD GAMES

CIVILIZATION BUILDING

Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD

tarragindi.org



Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus

CLASS TITLE:	Board Games – Civilization Building (ages 10 – 19)
TOTAL REQUIRED HRS:	16
ADDITIONAL TIME POSSIBLE:	Yes
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS:	18
LOCATION (address):	6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:	Dr Jan A. Sigvartsen PhD (goes by Dr Jan)
SECONDARY INSTRUCTOR:	Leanne M. Sigvartsen (goes by Ms Leanne
CONTACT INFORMATION:	Jan@tarragindi.org, Leanne@tarragindi.org
	269-363-3968 – tarragindi.org

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:	Dr Jan	BA, MA, PhD
	Ms Leanne	BA Psych, PGD Psych, MCouns

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Build small empires in this board gaming class that teaches you critical thinking, situation analysis, and strategy using civilization-building, and player inclusive, board games from Germany and Europe. Board gaming has been played since ancient times and Dr Sigvartsen (a former Michigan finalist (he came third) in the International Settlers of Catan tournament) wants to revive this lost interpersonal and critical thinking skill.
2. You will learn how to be a good sport, master in-person social gaming, work collaboratively to build alliances, and make new friends in a screen free environment.
3. We select games that simulate real problem solving, strategy, and real small community building decisions. An alternative strategy and critical thinking class for those who do not like Chess.

Class Times:

Thursday 5.30pm – 6.30pm (light meal provided)

January 7 – February 25

All our classes are half semester (8 week) programs due to weather constraints.

We can't do archaeology in the snow or frozen ground! So we do two required classes in January (January 12-15 and January 18-22). Then six weeks in either the first half or second half of the semester.

Don't overload your weekly schedule with multiple partnership classes - register for one of our programs in the first half of the semester - then register for a second one (or a class with another teacher) in the second half and still only be committed to one class each week throughout the semester! Our class list is on the next page.

Our Spring 2026 Classes

First Half of the Semester

- **Arrowhead Making and Ancient Tools** - learn to make stone arrowheads, identify and date them, and make ancient stone and wood tools used by ancient people. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Board Games, Civilization Building** – learn to build strong communities by building small ones in an in-person, interactive, screen-free class. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Genealogy 101** – trace your family tree as far back as you can go (Warning: HIGHLY addictive!!). Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Photography** – learn photography by capturing a new local historic site each week and learning its story. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Court Trials** – bring your acting skills and relive real 1800s court trials that were tried in the Berrien Springs Courthouse – Michigan's oldest courthouse. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Historic Storytelling** – learn the ancient art of telling stories and keeping our history alive. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

Second Half of the Semester

- **Archaeology Dig – Tarragindi** - Excavate one of the Berrien County's oldest settler farms, that is nearly 200 years old, with archaeologist Dr Jan Sigvartsen PhD. We find antique bottles, coins, and so much more! Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Cemetery Restoration Project** - Help save one of Berrien County's oldest cemeteries and learn the life stories of our earliest European settlers who are buried there. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Garden Recreation Project - 1000 Years Ago** - Recreate a real Woodland Native American garden based on Michigan's very own archaeology record. Syllabus at tarragindi.org
- **Gardening Project, 1830s Early Settlers Garden** - Recreate a real Berrien County early settler garden based on historical records.
- **Historic Writing** – hone your writing skills by capturing local historical stories and getting them published. Syllabus at tarragindi.org

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: Weekly approximate breakdown of activities:

Class 1: (2 hours) January 7

Tarragindi Archaeology Dig site: 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

Your parent/guardian will be required to sign a waiver and choose if you want to participate in photographs or not during this program. We will go over expectations, requirements and goals. This shouldn't take too long and then we will play our first game. Your choice!

Class 2: (2 hours) January 14

Tarragindi Archaeology Dig site: 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

Powergrid – Distribution of electrical power to build small cities across the board.

Class 3: (2 hours) January 21

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Settlers of Catan – settling an island and developing a civilization.

Class 4: (2 hours) January 28

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Dorf – Romantik: you and other players are working together to build a "beautiful small world" by completing tasks requested by the local residents of a "Dorf" or village. See if you can achieve this and keep the residents happy.

Class 5: (2 hours) February 4

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Ticket to Ride: build a continental railway. We have the Europe, USA, and Asia versions to choose from.

Class 6: (2 hours) February 11

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Citadels: Build a small city, as the master builder, make decisions to ensure your city gets built.

Class 7: (2 hours) February 18

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Carcassonne: Build an entire landscape together, with cities, roads and fields, complete these features that may or may not benefit other players too.

Class 8: (2 hours) February 25

Board gaming – 6161 Pheasant Court, Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Alhambra: build relationships and hire the right people to help you build the palace of Alhambra and turn it into a global icon.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - In addition to the 2 items below, what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

1) Students agree to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Unexcused absences resulting in failure to meet 80% threshold may result in program discontinuation.

2) The Partnership Student Assessment is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The rubric is found on the teacher's online attendance sheet. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, excessive absences, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

3) Other class-specific assessment: Engagement in the program, follow through with instruction, and asking good questions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):

www.tarragindi.org/resources - page on our website giving links to local history resources.

CLASS-SPECIFIC POLICIES:

Attendance: Students are to attend each week. If they cannot make it one week, or if we have to cancel due to weather, we are happy to reschedule or have student's attend one of our other 12 archaeology or history classes that has some crossover content.

Behavior: To be careful, listen to instructions, identify everything you like about others (not what you don't like about them – ancient and settler communities succeeded through team work), zero tolerance of bullying, report bullying, have fun!

Weather: This is an indoor class, but will be canceled if there is significant snow forecast. All students will be emailed. Dr Sigvartsen will still go down to the Tarragindi property to ensure everyone got his email message.

Other: Be kind to the neighbors by parking in the designated areas, being courteous, and keeping the noise down.

ZERO BULLYING – we have a zero bullying policy. We want to be a space were people build one another up, not tear each other down. Please report bullying to Ms Leanne immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself or have your parent deal with it.

We work on a compassionate three-warning system. A child engaging in anti-social behaviors will be given a first and a second warning, along with compassionate and clear expectations of future behavior and examples of that behavior. We have only ever needed to give one first warning, due to the efficacy of this compassionate system. However, if a child requires a third warning, they will be removed from all Tarragindi Initiative programming.

ZERO Sexual harassment, profanity, sexually explicit, or crude behavior or speech – we have a strict zero-acceptance policy for anti-social behaviors. Again, we are a space that makes people feel welcome and accepted, not uncomfortable. Please report these behaviors to Ms Leanne immediately. She will deal with it and these behaviors were the topic of her Masters research thesis. Again, grace will be offered along with the same compassionate three warning protocol outlined above.

Withdrawal from the class: If you wish to withdraw from the class, you must do so following Class 1 (January 12-15) or prior to Class 2 (January 16-17). Otherwise, very significant investment will be made in you/your child and their participation in the class that you may be financially responsible for. We are happy to do make up classes if you have to miss a class for whatever reason or miss the first class. Parent Partnership staff have been advised of our deadlines. If your schedule changes after the Tarragini withdrawal deadline, please talk to Ms Leanne, as she may be able to work something out for you or schedule another class time for you.