



**Course:** UNIV 100 – Section 035    **Theme:** Science & Health

**Course Topic:** *Hidden Math in Classic Games*

**Description:** Have you ever wondered why some people can do so much “math” in their head? It may be because they spent their childhood playing games. Did you know playing dominoes helps you with arithmetic, and problem solving? Playing with dice or certain card games could teach you about probability? Chess and Battleship teach you about patterns and strategy. Settlers of Catan can teach you about combinatorics. It is documented that playing games can reduce math anxiety and help develop positive attitudes. People are less worried about making mistakes or failing and more interested in having fun. We are going to play some classic games and better our reasoning skills, our problem solving skills, and yes, even our mental math skills. Participation in activities will be the key to success in this course. Be prepared to learn the hard lesson – You can’t always win.