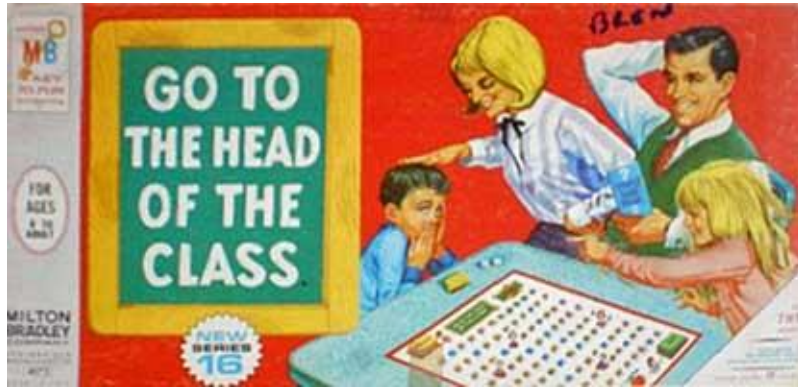


**Do you like to WRITE and PLAY games?  
Have I got a course for you!**



**What do you think of a course where you work together as a group to design a game -- while practicing collaborative writing skills that are essential to success in the professional world?**

## **Collaborative Writing Practices**

### **Spring 2008**

**355:375 – Index: 74287**

**W2&3 (9:50-12:50), Murray Hall 038, GOELLER 3 credits**

Writing in the workplace differs from writing in school in several ways, but none more important than their attitudes toward collaboration. In the workplace, **computers** allow teams of writers to utilize the power of many hands to make light work of complex writing tasks. Ownership of the final product typically falls to the organization and not the individuals involved. In school, by contrast, students are graded on individual effort, which has an atomizing effect, discouraging mutual aid and assistance. In fact, in most classes collaboration is labeled as “cheating” or “plagiarism,” and grading standards insist that students claim original authorship of every word they submit. Our only school experience of collaboration tends to come in labs or group projects, where instructors spend too little time guiding the process, so that students tend to fall back on the solitary model of composition: one student does almost everything and the rest take equal credit. As we recognize, that’s a bad model of collaborative writing. A better practice of **collaborative writing** resembles a **team game**, where work becomes a form of **cooperative play**, with **defined roles** and tasks, and competition with other teams drives commitment to success. In our course, self-chosen **teams will compete to design an original game**, which they will propose, test, write instructions for, and work to promote while also reflecting critically on their own writing practices. We will utilize **MS Word, Adobe Photoshop, PowerPoint, and web design** software to create our products and publish our supporting documents. Writing will be done in a lab environment structured to insist on group effort. The only prerequisite is Expository Writing (101) or the equivalent. The course does not count for credit toward the English major, but **it does fulfill second-level, writing intensive course requirements for SAS students.**