





4. Students who wish to teach any of the above three uses of games at the Elementary, Middle School, or High School levels.  
Examples: Students studying for teaching credentials.

The above are all regular CSU East Bay undergraduate and graduate students who would benefit from the integration of games and game-like learning in the curriculum.

### *Articulation of learning areas against CSU East Bay's Institutional Learning Outcomes*



**B** -

*Introduction*



Because each of the four learning areas use different methods and had different objectives, each will be addressed separately with their findings.

### *Games in the General Curriculum*

In each of the identified subsets of this area, the objective was to identify game or game like learning techniques or tools that would be improve student learning across the curriculum at CSU East Bay. We then broke down these three steps:

- Identify game learning techniques and tools
  - Search academic journal papers, books, and white papers for relevant research
  - Identify a list of both leading universities across the US in this area and comparable universities to CSU East Bay
    - Determine appropriate contact people at these institutions
    - Interview them via email or telephone for promising options
- Assess whether these tools and techniques improve student learning
  - Consult the literature about this tool or technique, and/or
  - Interview users at other institutions, and/or
  - Test the particular tool or technique
- Assess appropriateness to CSU East Bay
  - Confirm that the learning outcomes above map to one or more of the CSUEB ILOs
  - Confirm that the students above are comparable to CSU East Bay student body
  - Ideally, test the tool or technique with CSU East Bay students

ese methods were then applied to each of the three sub-areas.

### *Small Games in the General Curriculum*

Small games are effective if they are well integrated into the curriculum (Brom, Preuss, Klement). The most common usages at universities similar to CSUEB are:

- Games available off the shelf from textbook publishers
- Simple-to-modify games
- Games developed by the instructor with intermediate software, or
- Custom developed with game mechanics that are specific to the course or discipline

Faculty using each of these types of small games were identified on other campuses through the literature and through Google searches of syllabi. Attempts to contact individuals from the list of leading and comparable universities (other than those previously identified) proved problematic as few campuses had any centralized system for sharing teaching tools. The exception was those using an online learning system add-on. For example, the StudyMate from Respondus integrates with Blackboard or Canvas and requires a full-campus site license. Universities using StudyMate, such as Sacramento State and CSU Northridge, were able to refer us to faculty users. Faculty users at CSU East Bay were found through personal contacts and informal inquiries.

Games from textbook publishers are always locked to specific textbooks and the content cannot be



of learning, ease of use, and flexibility and sophistication of the games that could be produced. Of these, 16 were chosen for closer testing. These were downloaded and used to create sample games. While we were unable to test the produced games on CSU East Bay undergraduates, two team members assessed the appropriateness of the platforms to the CSU East Bay faculty and students using a 19 point rubric. The two best platforms for each level of complexity were identified.

C G	B P C EBO
<p>GameMaker (2D)</p>	<p>Scratch (2D)</p>
<p>GameMaker (2D)</p>	<p>Scratch (2D)</p>
<p>GameMaker (2D)</p>	<p>Scratch (2D)</p>
<p>GameMaker (2D)</p>	<p>Scratch (2D)</p>

***Gami cation of Pedagogy***

Using the same methodology, we examined what we called the Gami cation of Pedagogy. As discussed above, running part of a class like a game has a long history. It was heavily impacted by the passage of FERPA privacy regulations in the 1970s, but has seen a significant revival in the last ve years with the



and to determine that serious gaming works as an expressive medium for students to develop critical thinking for dealing with contradiction and for becoming strategic social innovators (Brooks, Keyser, Meneses, in press). In 2010 and in 2011, one member of our team, Professor Brooks, and two graduate researchers conducted a media content and qualitative analysis of students who played an alternative reality game known as Urgent Evoke. An alternate reality game (ARG) is an interactive narrative that uses the real world as a platform, often involving multiple media and game elements, to tell a story that may be affected by participants' ideas or actions.

Urgent Evoke was directed by Jane McGonigal, former director of games research at the Institute For the Future and developed by the World Bank Institute. Players were asked to explore and solve urgent

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## *Teaching K12 Credential Students to Use Game Learning*

### *Creativity*

Games embrace and foster children's sense of play, cultivating their questioning disposition, and reinforce the power and importance of play.

Gamification offers the promise to alter school-based rules to motivate students at the emotional level, their sense of identity and their social positioning (Lee & Hammer, 2011). Their work at Teachers College Columbia University has a "game layer" that "fosters concrete goal-setting, clear communication, and the conscious development of student identity as learners" (p. 2).

The three parts of "flow" defined as being intensely focused and most satisfied: 1) challenging problems that do not deskill, 2) practice, with some failure, until the problem is challenging, but solvable with effort, which is the state of flow 3) practice equals solving the problem and then seeking another problem that is more challenging and requires more skill (Gee, 2010).

### *Critical thinking*

Ito (2009) conducted a 3 year ethnographic study of children's media practice, linking peer, school, and home environments. Findings included a tremendous diversity of media practice that can be divided into two areas. First, "Friendship Driven Space" that provides the children opportunities to think critically about online identity and digital footprint. Second, using media literacy to "Geek Out", which provides the opportunity to foster civic responsibility.

Games encourage interest-driven learning: engagement, caring about subject matter, and captivating learners' interest (Steinkuehler, 2010). In Steinkuehler's qualitative study with middle school students the gaming reading curricula bridged the "third space" of the peer, school, and home culture. In games, as educational materials, are student centered and the knowledge gained moves toward the students' learning goals. An important reading skill, self correcting for comprehension, increased. He also found that gaming pedagogy is comparable to community organization, asking the question: What do you as a community want to accomplish? How should you marshal resources (time, materials) to accomplish your goal?

### *Communication*

- Interactive narratives promote collaborative problem solving, and position game players as producers (Squire).
- Combining high interactivity with narratives, games promote learning (Becta, 2001).

### *Digital Literacy*

- Bridging 3rd space, games and reading (Steinkuehler)
  - o Literacy increases as children self correct
  - o Educational materials move toward the students' learning goals (student centered)
  - o Pedagogy is comparable to community organization

**R****P**

1. *Small games are worth implementing across the curriculum.*  
They increase engagement and can promote all Institutional Learning Outcomes.
  - Consider campus purchase of StudyMate for Blackboard (discuss with administration at Sacramento State, CSU Northridge, and CSU Fullerton, where it is in current use)
  - Promote the use of small games to faculty members who may be unaware of proven benefits
2. *Serious games have produced successes in learning and research at CSU East Bay.*
  - Continue existing support of the program in Department of Communication
  - Consider and encourage other departments to feature serious games if appropriate ones are available
3. *Gamification, in and of itself, is not worth pursuing at this time.*  
The broader field of User Experience Design is booming, but would require a new major option.
4. *The game industry is underserved by public universities in the Bay Area and California.*  
Some type of program would be popular. While a new major option is one option, a shorter sequence or minor will provide many benefits.
5. *Promote teaching the use of game learning in Teacher Education.*  
Use of games is highly effective in K12 teaching and absent from much of the current curriculum.
6. *Leverage existing skills and options to expand learning in Teacher Education and Art.*  
CSU East Bay already has faculty who can teach game design in a short sequence and student who want to learn. These can be leveraged to provide needed game learning support in Teacher Education. We recommend creating a short three quarter Game Making for Service track in the Art Department's existing Multimedia option, and assigning senior capstone students to work with Teacher Education classes to develop educational games to maximize outcomes in both Teacher Education and in the classes those certified will teach in the community once they graduate.

**R****R**

### *References*

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Zichermann, Gabe, & Cunningham, Christopher. (2011). *Gami cation by design: Implementing game mechanics in web and mobile apps*: O'Reilly Media.

### **Resources**

the Institute of Play, the leading think tank in the field <http://www.instituteofplay.org/>  
Best report on games and diversity <http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=5819>  
Quest to Learn, the New York Times featured, game-focused K12 school, <http://q2l.org/>  
Games + Learning + Society at <http://www.gameslearningsociety.org/>  
Examples of advanced educational games <http://www.nobelprize.org/educational/>  
Examples of serious games <http://www.darfurisdying.com/> and <http://www.darfurisdying.com/>

### **Campus Contacts**

For Serious Gaming, Prof. Lonny Brooks at [lonny.brooks@csueastbay.edu](mailto:lonny.brooks@csueastbay.edu)

For Gaming in Education, Prof. Jeanette Bicais at [jeanette.bicais@csueastbay.edu](mailto:jeanette.bicais@csueastbay.edu)

and for all other aspects of game learning covered in this white paper, Prof. Gwyan Rhabyt at [gwyan.rhabyt@csueastbay.edu](mailto:gwyan.rhabyt@csueastbay.edu)

## **A**

**Dr. Robert R. Taylor** is a Professor in the Art Department and Director of the Multimedia Graduate Program at CSU East Bay. A multiple Fulbright scholar, his media-rich sculpture, performance, and installation pieces have been exhibited nationally and internationally. He is President Emeritus of the New Media Caucus, the largest association of New Media academics in North America, and sits on the Board of *mediaN*, a peer reviewed journal of new media studies. He regularly presents papers at the College Art Association Conference, where he will chair a panel on the Pedagogy of Games and Engagement in 2014.

**Dr. Susan M. G. Taylor** is an Associate Professor and Chair of Teacher Education at CSU East Bay. A K-5 classroom teacher for 17 years, she returned to earn her doctorate from UC Berkeley researching how English Learners write in a language other than their home language. Her current research continues to be in the K-12 community on ways in which the teacher and the students use language to extend the children's writing abilities. AT CSUEB, she has taught courses in the Master's, Option in Curriculum Program and in the Multiple Subject Credential Program.

**Dr. Robert R. Taylor** is an Assistant professor in the Communication Department at CSU East Bay. His current manuscript is *\*Futures, Inc.: Communicating the Future of Digital Culture\** (in final review at MIT Press). His research of long term thinking is part of a larger study of how organizations (especially forecasting think tanks), interaction designers, and college youth envision the future of communication technologies. His research analyzes how the distribution of stories organizations and individuals create works to forward, mitigate, or restrain technological and scientific innovation. He is currently Chair of the Communication And the Future (CATF) division of the National Communication Association. He is the Lead Faculty for the Long Term and Futures thinking project in education (CSUEB) whose goal is to foster the development of thoughtful, engaged citizens for whom critical, creative and



