Session 5 – UNWRITTEN RULES

Readings

Stephen Sniderman, Unwritten Rules
David Myers, Crime & Punishment

Concepts/Keywords
- Unwritten rules
- Literacy

Goals
- Relate this to the 1st Written Assignment
- Focus on the importance of players in playing, how games are understood differently by different players

Sociology has an important stance in game studies - Study of player and player behavior, particularly player communities and online playfulness
Today focus on regulation of player behavior, where it comes from

What are the recorded rules?

Q: Examples of game rules everyone knows

Where do “unwritten rules” come from?
Why do they exist?

Official sports rules vs. house rules
→ Still dependent on interpretation

Q: Examples of official rules?
Some games THRIVE on unwritten rules: Musical Chairs, J.S. Joust
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUzIhFHxJ5Q

Twixt
- Recap on Twixt story
- Was Twixt really playing by the rules? Which rules were those
- He states he's playing by the rules of the game (unwritten rules)
- Are the rules entirely determined by the game design? (as Myers states)
- What was Myer's / Twixt's problem?
- Was he a good sport?
- He's a spoilsport – not following the unwritten rules (which are harder to break)

Assignment
- Show the girlfriend plays TF2 video Original video has been removed from YouTube. A replacement video is available: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCjVV843nFw
- What kinds of rules were easier to learn?
- What are the unwritten rules that novice players had to learn or teach?