COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: PSYC 2618: General Psychology

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 4
2. Hours/Week: 4
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing skills: Appropriate scores on RCTC placement tests or completion of appropriate developmental courses
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The topics covered will include research methods, the biological roots of behavior, sensation, perception, principles of learning, memory, thinking, language, intelligence, emotions, stress, personality, psychological disorders, therapy, and social psychology.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): March, 2008

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Thinking critically with psychological science
2. Neuroscience and behavior
4. Developing through the lifespan
5. Sensation and perception
6. States of consciousness
7. Learning
8. Memory
9. Thinking, language, and intelligence
10. Motivation
11. Emotions, stress, and health
12. Personality
13. Psychological disorders
14. Therapy
15. Social psychology

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings of psychology.
2. Understand basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. Respect and use critical thinking to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
4. Understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued...  
Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:  
1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.  
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.  
3. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.  

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:  
1. Objective and short answer tests  
2. Essay Tests  
3. Short papers (1-2 pages)  
4. Medium papers (2-5 pages)  
5. Larger, short term projects  
6. Group work  
7. Skill performance  

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None