**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** October 21, 2014

**REVIEWER:** Reneta D. Lansiquot

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** PSY 3405 Health Psychology

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** ENG 1101, PSY 1101

**COURSE IS:**  Existing 🞏 New 🞏 In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION**:  College Option  elective 🞏 Capstone 🞏 other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Social Science

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):**  Guest lecturers

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): Not applicable

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An overview of existing psychological and epidemiological findings on the relationship between behavior and disease. The course explores how behavior, emotion and cognition can influence disease processes and examines the impact of stress and personal control on specific coronary, immune and infectious disease symptoms. Social support, referral and interventions for optimal physical and mental health are introduced. The interdisciplinary theme of this course will provide an overview of extant literature on theories of health psychology and behavior change within the context of critical race theory for a gained understanding of varied philosophies of science.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA:**

The theme of the course is understanding health behaviors of Americans while taking into consideration the role played by race in decision making, treatment, and conceptualization of risk by both patients and health care professionals. The problem being addressed is the binary conceptualization of race as either genetic or social. The two definitions are problematic in the achievement of health behaviors and risk management, particularly in instances in which race is communicated as a risk from large health organizations and physicians.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE:**

Guest lecturers will comprise a minimum of 20% of the course.

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** Yes.

**STRENGTHS:** This section of the course will focus on synthesizing aspects of health care including psychology, research methods, philosophy of science as well as intersecting topics of race, gender, and class by bringing in disciplinary perspectives from philosophy, health care fields, social work, and epidemiology. Students will explore the application of a philosophical evaluation of race via literature and film as well as reflect on their own meanings of race.

**WEAKNESSES:** A bit more clarification on how and which course assignments explicitly connect to the focus of this section of the course is needed, but this will likely evolve once the course is taught.