**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** 22 September 2015

**REVIEWER:** Ezra Halleck

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** *Biology II (BIO1201)*

**PROPOSED BY:** *Tatiana Voza (biology) & Geoff Zysltra (social science)*

**CREDIT HOURS:** *4 credits*

**PREREQUISITES:** *Biology I*

**COURSE IS:** X Existing New In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION**: X College Option X elective Capstone other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** *Biology*

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):**  co-taught (20% history, 80% biology)

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): *Prof. Zylstra offers to graciously co-teach this section in addition to his regular workload.*

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** *BIO1201 is the second half of First Year General Biology for non-science majors at New York City College of Technology. This course comes with a lecture and a lab component. The course introduces the student to a variety of biological topics fundamental to all living organisms, with a focus on human organ systems. In particular, the course is a survey of organisms belonging to the Domains Archaea and Bacteria and, more extensively, the groups spanning the four kingdoms of the Domain Eukarya. A special focus will be dedicated to higher animal organization, ranging from animal tissues to organs and organ systems, and how these systems compare and contrast among both vertebrates and invertebrates. Throughout the curriculum, interdisciplinary topics, centered around 4 major themes, “History & Scientific Discoveries” ,“Biology & Industry” ,“Disease Impact & Public Health Policies”, “Science & Race, Gender & Social Status” will be discussed, providing social, historical and economical contexts and connections to biology.*

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

The course focuses on questions, problems, and topics which bridge both biology and society. The material is covered in a synthetic and deep way in contrast to a typical science appreciation course, where the history is presented peripherally and is in some sense just entertainment. The history aspect is less on the development of the science than the more complex issue of societal development and policy, including institutions such as the health industry and government, and constructs such as gender and race.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

This course is taught by faculty from two disciplines and has assignments requiring the application of both disciplines.

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** Yes, it meets them. As an introductory course, students focus on mainly basic information. However, at certain junctures, especially in their final paper, students will go beyond what is considered fundamental to reach a higher level of learning and critical thinking.

**STRENGTHS:** The course outline is thoughtfully and carefully designed. The description, syllabus, and assignments will provide students with an introductory, yet deep and complex example of scholarly interdisciplinarity.

**WEAKNESSES:** None.