A. GE component for which course is being proposed:
   Thinking Globally
   Comp & Compas Action: Comm Cross-Culturally

B. Submitted by  Tom Fikes, Psychology

C. Ideally, submissions should be discussed by the entire department prior to submittal.
   [x] Chair has reviewed and approved the course.

D. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus):
   PSY-150-TF Narrative and Cultural Psychology; Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict

E. This course
   [ ] Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   [ ] Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   [x] Has had its contents modified to address the relevant GE issues

F. This course is being submitted as
   [ ] A Template. Applicable to courses with multiple sections which require only general training in the discipline. The submission should come with the approval of the department chair and should clearly identify what course content and what elements of the syllabus the department has agreed will common to all sections. Upon approval by the GE Committee, any course whose syllabus is determined by the department to meet the specifications of the template is approved to satisfy this area requirement. A copy of each syllabus should be forwarded to the G.E. committee for record keeping purposes.
   [x] An Individual Course. Applicable to courses requiring specialized training in the discipline or are typically offered by a particular instructor. The course should be resubmitted and reassessed in the event of a change in staffing or syllabus.

G. Brief statement of rationale:
   PSY-150-TF is one of two courses being proposed for a 2009 Mayterm in the Middle East. In addition to approximately 5 weeks in Syria, Jordan, and Israel, we will spend an intensive week on campus prior to our departure, and have several foundational texts assigned prior to that during the Spring semester as well. The last two paragraphs of the Synopsis section of the syllabus summarize the ways in which PSY-150 meets the two GE categories (Fisk’s RS-104 course is additionally being proposed to meet the Thinking Historically category).

Regarding the Thinking Globally category, this course explicitly seeks to understand the Arab-Israeli conflict from non-Western perspectives, using the framework and methods of cultural and narrative psychology to this end. An
important goal of the course is for students to deconstruct (and reconstruct) their own culturally conditioned narratives regarding the conflict as well. Because culture and cultural narrative is inherently historical, the experiences, assignments, and discussions of this course will be integrated with Fisk’s RS-104. Ideally, students will come away with a deep and critical appreciation of three cultural-historical perspectives: Western/North American, Israeli, and Arab/Palestinian. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the practical nature of the cultural/narrative perspective: how does viewing the conflict in this way equip us to be more effective agents of redemption and justice?

Regarding the **Competent and Compassionate Action: Communicating Cross-Culturally** category, the 2009 Middle East Mayterm includes 5 weeks of intensive cross-cultural experience, including a variety of home stays, local guides, use of local transportation, and other program elements designed to keep students in close contact with the people of the countries and villages that we visit. Additionally, course assignments (formal and informal presentations to the students by those working in Israel and neighboring Arab nations, collecting written and oral narratives, discussions and presentations of those narratives, and a final paper integrating and reflecting on those narratives and experiences) are designed to facilitate mutual understanding, dialog, and appreciation.

In addition to the course syllabus, I have attached the tentative itinerary for the trip. Many of the presentations and experiences listed there were a part of the 2007 Mayterm led by Bruce Fisk, and we are please that many of these have been confirmed for the coming year as well.