

**Riverland's Core Theme and Student Competencies for Classroom-Level Student Learning Outcomes**

**MnTC Goal # 2: Critical Thinking - Riverland graduates are able to unify factual, creative, rational, and value-sensitive modes of thought.**

**Student Competencies:** Students will be able to ...

- a. 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.
- b. 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
- c. 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.
- d. recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

**MnTC Goal # 7: Human Diversity - Riverland graduates understand individual and group differences.**

**Student Competencies:** Students will be able to ...

- a. understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States, history and culture.
- b. demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
- c. analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
- d. describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
- e. demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

**MnTC Goal # 8 Global Perspectives: - Riverland graduates understand the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic and political experiences.**

**Student Competencies:** Students will be able to ...

- a. describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- b. demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
- c. analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
- d. understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

**MnTC Goal # 9 Ethical and Civic Responsibility - Riverland graduates have the capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship.**

**Student Competencies:** Students will be able to ...

- a. examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
- b. understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
- c. analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
- d. recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
- e. identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

**MnTC Goal # 10 People and the Environment - Riverland graduates understand today's complex environmental challenges.**

**Student Competencies:** Students will be able to ...

- a. explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
- b. discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
- c. describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, and religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
- d. evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
- e. propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
- f. articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.