

PSYC 304 Principles of Learning Lab Spring 2018

Instructor: Brianna Artz
Email: bartz@masonlive.gmu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-2:00 PM
Office Location: David King Hall 2030

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is to give students a hands-on experience conducting research experiments by way of using the virtual rat, Sniffy. Experiments will be based on different elements of learning and behavior, including operant and classical conditioning, reinforcement, and extinction. As a class, we will aim to understand the process of carrying-out and completing these experiments. Understanding will be determined based on in-class assignments and research papers.

Required Text:

Alloway, T., Wilson, G., & Graham, J. (2012). *Sniffy the Virtual Rat Pro, Version 3.0*. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-111-72625-6

Suggested Text (for reference):

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

**All written assignments require APA format so this is a good reference to have, but much of the same information can be found online at the APA website.*

Grading: This lab will count as **25%** of your total grade towards Psyc304. The points are broken down into the following categories: Syllabus Quiz (2%) Sniffy Assignments (30%), APA Quizzes (18%), Paper 1 (20%), and Paper 2 (30%)

Grading Scale

Grading breakdown	Point value
Syllabus Quiz	4
Sniffy Assignments	60 (6 pts * 10 assignments, lowest grade dropped)
APA Quizzes	36 (9 pts * 4 quizzes)
Paper 1	40
Paper 2	60
Total	200

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
59%-Lower	F

Add/Drop Deadline: Should you decide to drop this lab and lecture, please note the following dates to drop this course (with and without tuition penalties). The last day to drop any courses without tuition penalty is September 6. The last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty is September 20th; the last day to drop with a 67% tuition penalty is September 30th.

Syllabus Quiz: To ensure that important elements regarding the syllabus are understood, there will be a syllabus quiz during the first week of the course. This can be taken as many times as possible, and you can use the syllabus while taking the quiz.

Schedule: The schedule is charted below; however, it is important to note that there are deadlines for having technical difficulties or questions. The schedule is Saturday-Friday in order to allow for the weekend to discover and/or fix technical problems with Sniffy. If you are having issues, contact me and make plans to meet for technical help *by Thursday at the latest*. I will no longer be available to answer questions regarding technical issues past Thursdays, because many issues require in-person help. Please budget time wisely! ☺

Sniffy Assignments: These assignments will be completed most weeks using the Sniffy program accompanying the book. Questions will accompany the experiments and everyone will individually submit them in to me by way of blackboard. Specific directions for completing these experiments are laid out in the book. I will also upload tutorials of how to begin each experiment to help navigate the program. Your lowest Sniffy assignment grade will be dropped. ☺

APA assignments: These assignments will consist of four different quizzes that cover/review APA style. You will be able to use the book/internet to answer these questions and you may retake the quizzes as many times as you'd like to earn the highest possible score. However, that does not mean you shouldn't take them seriously! Your papers will be in APA style and it is in your best interest to be well-versed in this.

Papers: There will be two papers in this lab. The first paper will be based on three of the Sniffy experiments that we complete in lab. It will be written in the form of a research paper containing an introduction on classical conditioning, methods for the three experiments, and results for said experiments. The second paper will be a research proposal. You will come up with your own research experiment (that involves classical or operant conditioning) and then write a thorough introduction as well as methods sections. Specific instructions for these papers are posted on blackboard and a detailed rubric will offer clear guidelines for success.

Writing Intensive: Psyc304 has been approved as a writing intensive course. The laboratory portion of this course requires students to complete 2 APA style papers. The completion of these, along with the completion of Psyc304 with a grade of "C" or better, fulfills the writing intensive requirement for the Psychology major. **IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE BOTH PAPERS, YOU MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PASS THIS COURSE!!!!**

-The APA publication manual can be found online here:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

-Students can also utilize the GMU writing center:

<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Technology Use: Students will be required to have access to either a personal computer, or use a campus computer to run virtual lab sessions through the Sniffy CD program.

Official communications via GMU e-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. If you are having your Mason mail forwarded to another account, please ensure that your Mason account doesn't exceed the assigned limit, causing mail to bounce back to the sender.

Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the University catalog or online at the following website: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>.

Disability Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me. You must also contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. It is important that all accommodations be made early in the semester.

Late Policy: Assignments will be made available to you at 12:01 AM each Saturday the week the assignment is due, and it is due the following Friday at 11:59 PM. For every day that a FINAL DRAFT OF A PAPER is late, a penalty of 10% of the original total points will be removed. Sniffy assignments and quizzes will not be eligible for the late penalty, and will not be accepted. If there is some sort of emergency which gets in the way of course work, email me and we can discuss late work given proof of emergency (doctors note, car accident picture, etc.)

Make-up Policy: Should the university be closed due to inclement weather, power outages, catastrophic calamity, cats take over the world, zombie virus outbreak, etc., I will email the class if there are any changes to due dates. (granted if the situation is zombie outbreak, communications may be difficult, so every man for himself in that instance).

***Our schedule is based on lecture portion progress and may change throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced by way of email and/or through blackboard.**

Schedule: Spring 2018

Date	Sniffy Assignment	APA/Paper Assignment
Week 1 1/22-1/26	-	-Syllabus quiz -APA quiz 1
Week 2 1/27-2/2	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 1-3	-Submit 4 articles you wish to use in Paper 1 through Discussion Board P1
Week 3 2/3-2/9	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 4, 5	-APA Quiz 2
Week 4 2/10-2/16	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 6-8	-Outline for Paper 1 is due
Week 5 2/17-2/23	-	-Work on Paper 1 Rough draft
Week 6 2/24-3/2	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 19-21	-Paper 1 Rough Draft Due
Week 7 3/3-3/9	Introduction to Operant Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 24	-Work on Final Draft -APA Quiz 3
Week 8 3/10-3/16	Operant Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 32-36	-Paper 1 Final Draft Due
Week 9 3/17-3/23	Extinction and Stimulus Control: Sniffy Ex. 25-27, 39-40	-Submit paper 2 topic ideas by 10/24

		-Submit 6 articles you wish to use in Paper 2 by 10/27
Week 10 3/24-3/30	Stimulus Control: Sniffy Ex. 41-44	-Submit Paper 2 Outline
Week 11 3/31-4/6	Punishment: Sniffy Ex. 29-31	-APA Quiz 4
Week 12 4/7-4/13	Shaping: Sniffy Ex. 45 & 47	-Paper 2 Rough Draft Due
Week 13 4/14-4/20	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO ASSIGNMENTS	-Extra credit Assignment
Week 14 4/21-4/27	Sniffy Ex 49	-Work on Paper 2 Final Draft
Week 15 4/28-5/4	-	-Paper 2 Due