PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

Spring 2019

Psyc304 Lab

Logan Woodhouse

E-mail: lwoodhou@masonlive.gmu.edu

Office hours online by appointment or in-person by special arrangement.

The “Ask Your Instructor” discussion board on Blackboard is a forum for general questions about the lab. If you have a question specific to you – for example, about a grade – please email me privately at lwoodhou@masonlive.gmu.edu

**Course description:** This lab will complement the lecture portion of the course by providing hands-on experience in the experimental analysis of learning and behavior using Sniffy the Virtual Rat. As part of the lab, you will also practice writing APA-style research papers to share your work with other scientists.

This section of Psyc304 will be taught entirely online and is asynchronous.

Psyc304 is a 4-credit course with the final grade comprised of both the lecture (75%) and lab (25%) grades. Psyc300, Statistics in Psychology, is a recommended prerequisite.

**Course objectives:**

By the end of the semester students will able to

Recognize and understand the basic terms and concepts psychologists use to describe principles of simple and associative learning

Apply these terms and concepts to laboratory research

Create and run experiments, and collect data, involving classical and operant conditioning

Communicate their research by writing APA-style research papers


You must purchase the software, as well as the book, to complete assignments.

Reading: Reading should be completed by the dates indicated on the schedule. Reading the material in advance will help you get the most out of the slides and activities.

Sniffy Exercises: These assignments will be completed using the Sniffy software that accompanies the text. Be sure to follow the directions posted for each exercise, which can include answering questions and submitting screen shots. Your two lowest Sniffy assignment grades will be dropped.

Quick Quizzes: Four quick quizzes based on material to familiarize you with APA style and research strategies will prepare you for the research paper assignments.

Papers: The first paper will be an APA-style research paper based on three of the Sniffy exercises you complete. Detailed instructions, grading rubrics, and a sample paper will be available on Blackboard.

The second paper will be an APA-style research proposal for an experiment you create. A peer-review component will allow you to benefit from the insights of your peers and learn to provide constructive feedback to others. Again, detailed instructions, grading rubrics, and a sample paper will be available on Blackboard.

Writing Intensive: Psyc304 has been approved as a writing intensive course. To meet this requirement, students will complete several writing assignments, including a complete research paper, in the lab. All papers will conform to APA style guidelines. Successful completion of these papers, and completion of Psyc304 with a grade of C or better, meets the writing intensive requirement of the psychology major. Students who fail to turn in one or more paper assignments will receive a grade of F for the course even if they have earned passing grades in the lecture and lab on other assignments.

Late work: Late work will not be accepted for Sniffy Exercises and Quizzes. For each calendar day a paper assignment is late, 10 percentage points will be deducted from the grade. For example, a paper with a grade of 95% would earn 85% one day after the due date, 75% two days after the due date, etc.

Grading: The lab grade will consist of the following weighted components:
Contribution to lab grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sniffy Exercises</td>
<td>Best 20 of 22</td>
<td>1% each</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>4 quizzes</td>
<td>5% each</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>outline</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>draft</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>final</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>outline</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>draft</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>final</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade for PSYC304 will be based on the combined grades you earn in the lecture (75%) and the lab (25%).

**Final grades:**

A+ 98% and higher
A 93% to 97%
A- 90% to 92%
B+ 87% to 89%
B 83% to 86%
B- 80% to 82%
C 70% to 76%
D 60% to 69%
F 59% and lower

**Student responsibilities**

**Due dates:** As an online course, the content of Psyc304 will be delivered in weekly modules. For our purposes, each week will begin on Monday and end the following Sunday night at midnight. Information about specific due dates will be noted in assignment instructions.

I realize that some of you could be in different time zones. All dates and times listed on the course schedule and Blackboard are based on the time at the Mason campus in Fairfax, Virginia (Eastern Time). Note that Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 4, 2018.

**Technology expectations:** You must have reliable access to the internet. Internet service failure is not an acceptable excuse for late work. With this in mind, please don’t wait until the last minute to submit work. If you are uncertain about your home service, consider using the wifi or computer labs at one of the Mason campuses.

You will need to be able to access your Masonlive email account (http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=11028), and Blackboard (https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu), Mason’s web-based Learning Management System.

Information about a variety of course tools, including Blackboard Mobile, can be found at http://doit.gmu.edu/students/course-tools/

**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.

**Time commitment:** At the university level, in addition to time spent in class, students are expected to put in 2 to 3 times as much time outside of class. For a 1-credit-hour, online lab taught over 14 weeks, you can expect 1 hour per week of “class time,” plus an additional 2-3 hours of reading and other work outside of class, for an approximate total commitment of 3-4 hours per week.
Response time: In general, you can expect responses from me within 48 hours. I expect that you will respond to my emails within a similar time frame.

Disability accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me early in the semester. If you have not already done so, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please keep in mind that it might not be possible to grant last-minute requests for accommodations, so it is important to make all arrangements well before the date when the accommodation is needed.

Honor code: All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the University Honor Code. As required by the Honor Code, all suspected violations will be reported.

Important dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add a class</td>
<td>January 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
<td>February 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-withdrawal period</td>
<td>February 13 to February 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective withdrawal period</td>
<td>February 26 to March 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrollment: Every student is responsible for verifying correct enrollment. Graded work will not be returned to students who are not officially enrolled.

Principles of Learning Lab

Spring 2019

Semester Schedule

All readings for the lab portion of this course will be in Alloway, Wilson & Graham Sniffy the Virtual Rat: Pro Version 3.0.

Note that all graded assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the date indicated.
**Week 1 (Jan 21)**

Read: Chapter 2 – Introduction to Classical Conditioning

Watch: The Introduction to Sniffy video

Experiment: Sample Screenshot of Data Window due 1/27/19

Read and Watch: Library Tutorials

Quick Quiz: Research Tools and Search Techniques – due 1/27/19

**Week 2 (Jan 28)**

Read: Chapter 3 – Basic Phenomena of Classical Conditioning

Watch: The Sniffy Exercises 1-3 Tutorial video

Experiment: Exercises 1, 2, 3 – due 2/3/19

Watch: A slideshow on APA style

Quick Quiz: APA Style Overview – due 2/3/19

Start work on: Paper 1 Outline

**Week 3 (Feb 4)**

Read: Chapter 4 – Compound Conditioning, Blocking, Overshadowing, and Overexpectation

Experiment: Exercises 7, 8 – due 2/10/19

Read: References

Quick Quiz: APA References – due 2/10/19

Submit: Paper 1 Outline – due 2/10/19

**Week 4 (Feb 11)**

Read: Chapter 6 – Associative Structures in Classical Conditioning

Experiment: Exercises 12, 13 – due 2/17/19

Read: In-text Citations

Quick Quiz: APA In-text Citations – due 2/17/19

Start work on: Paper 1 Draft
Week 5 (Feb 18)

Read: Chapter 9 – Introduction to Operant Conditioning

Submit: Paper 1 Draft – due 2/24/29

Week 6 (Feb 25)

Read: Chapter 10 – Basic Operant Phenomena

Experiment: Exercises 25, 26, 27 – due 3/3/19

Start work on: Paper 1 Final Version

Week 7 (March 4)

Read: Chapter 12 – Schedules of Reinforcement

Experiment: Exercises 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 – due 3/10/19

Submit: Paper 1 Final Version – due 3/10/19

Week 8 (March 11) – Happy Spring Break!

Week 9 (March 18)

Read: Chapter 13 – Stimulus Discrimination and Stimulus Generalization

Experiment: Exercises 39, 40, 43, 44 – due 3/24/19

Submit: Paper 2 Outline – due 3/24/19

Week 10 (March 25)

Read: Chapter 11 – The Effects of Punishment on Response Elimination

Exercises: 29, 30 – due 3/31/19

Start work on: Paper 2 Draft

Week 11 (April 1)

Submit: Paper 2 Draft to Peers – due 4/7/19
**Week 12 (April 8)**

Review: Peer Papers – due 4/14/19

**Week 13 (April 15)**

Revise: Paper 2 Draft based on peer feedback

Submit: Paper 2 Draft to Instructor – due 4/21/19

**Week 14 (April 22)**

Revise: Paper 2 Final Version

**Week 15 (April 29)**

Submit: Paper 2 Final Version – due 5/5/19

Attached Files: Woodhouse.18F.PSYC304.LabSyllabus-Accessible.docx