

PSYC - 201/202: Principles of Learning Lab

Spring 2020

Instructor: Lawrence E. Minnis, CPT (ret.)

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Office Hours: 12:00pm - 1:00pm Friday, or by appt. (online and in-person available)

Office: 2035 David King Hall

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is to give students experience with conditioning procedures and to enhance individual writing abilities through APA-format lessons and assignments. As a class, we will aim to understand the process of completing various conditioning experiments using the Sniffy text. APA skill development will be achieved through in-class assignments, student presentations, and two 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 **(the program CD is not required)**

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 [Purdue OWL website](#).*

Grading: Grades are a reflection of your effort to acquire and apply mastery of the course material. **This lab will count as 25% of your total grade towards Psyc304.** 330 points are broken down into the following categories: Sniffy Assignments (50), APA student presentations (50), Papers (200), and Extra Credit assignments. For the first paper, an outline (10), rough draft (10), and peer-review assessment (10) will be required for submission and graded respectively. **NOTE: Students cannot pass the overall course if they fail to earn a passing grade (C or above) on one or both papers** (writing intensive course).

Grades scale

A+	= 96 – 100%	C+	= 76 – 79%
A	= 90 – 95%	C	= 70 – 75%
B+	= 86 – 89%	D	= 60 – 69%
B	= 80 – 85%	F	= less than 60%

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 (100% tuition refund) is February 5th. The final drop deadline (50% tuition refund) is February 11th.

PSYC - 201/202: Principles of Learning Lab

Spring 2020

Schedule: The schedule is charted below; however, it is important to note that deadlines are set regardless of technical difficulties or questions. Each student is responsible for mitigating the negative effects of any issues. There are various alternatives and options available to complete work on time. Students are expected to use viable data management (i.e. saving and backing up work) and time management strategies to mitigate typical, but unfortunate, issues (i.e. computer/laptop failure, Sniffy program issues, Blackboard maintenance shutdown, student illness, etc.).

Sniffy Assignments: These assignments will be completed, as scheduled, using the Sniffy textbook. Questions will accompany the experiments, and everyone will individually submit through the assignment Blackboard portal. **Responses to the worksheet questions must be accurate and insightful, as to demonstrate your level of knowledge and understanding of the course content.** Inaccurate, generic, extremely short, or verbatim book responses will lose .50 pts each, at minimum. Specific directions for completing these experiments are laid out in the book. Demonstration slideshows and/or videos will be provided for Sniffy experiments.

APA assignments: These assignments will consist of student presentations that will cover/review APA-style formatting for your writing. Presentations will be 10-12 minutes long, followed by a question period from the class. You will be able to use the APA manual and internet to generate a presentation slideshow and respond to class questions to earn the highest possible presentation score. Slides must be submitted by 11 pm., the Tuesday evening prior to your presentation date. Learning this material is critical, as your papers will be in APA format and the writing format will be a heavily graded portion of the rubric.

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 either a research proposal or a critical video review of select animal training videos. For the proposal, students would come up with your own research experiment (that involves classical or operant conditioning) and then write a thorough introduction as well as methods sections. For the critical review, students would critique the training methods used in the video and provide analysis for/against the methods, supported by research literature. Specific instructions for these papers will be posted on Blackboard and a detailed rubric will offer clear guidelines for grading.

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, for a combined minimum 3500 words written. 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.

- The APA publication manual online: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
- Students can also utilize the GMU writing center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

PSYC - 201/202: Principles of Learning Lab

Spring 2020

Technology Use: Blackboard will be the principle vehicle of tech communication for this class. All work will be submitted via Blackboard, and course content, links, and notes will be made available on the course's BB page. Considerations will be given to each individual's circumstances; however, each student is responsible for seeking resolution to any technological issues while fulfilling all graded requirements of this course.

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.

Statement of Academic Integrity: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. It is expected that students adhere to and uphold the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity, including cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. 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/>.

Students with Special Concerns and 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 each Sunday leading into the week the assignment is due, and assignment submissions are due on Saturday, by 11:59 PM. When a **PAPER** is late, up to a maximum of 5 days, a penalty of up to 10% of the original total points will be applied. Sniffy assignments and presentations are not eligible for the late penalty and will not be accepted. In case of an emergency, which gets in the way of course work, email me and we can discuss late work given proof of emergency (ex. hospitalization record, etc.).

Make-up Policy: University closures due to inclement weather, power outages, etc., may affect the performance of this course. In such an event, I will email all students and the lab material and presentations will be rescheduled to the best available class session. Accommodations will only be considered in the event of extraordinary circumstances (ex. laptop stolen AND week-long, campus-wide power outage AND you live on-campus).

****Our schedule is based on progression of the 304 lecture and may change throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced by way of email and/or Blackboard.***

PSYC - 201/202: Principles of Learning Lab
Spring 2020

Schedule: Spring 2020

Date	Lab Topic and Assignment	Paper Assignment
Week 1 1/22	Lab Overview	- Review syllabus
Week 2 1/29	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 1-3	- Select presentation topic
Week 3 2/5	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 4-5	<i>Outline for Paper 1 is due by 2/8</i>
Week 4 2/12	Classical Conditioning: Sniffy Ex. 6-8	
Week 5 2/19	Presentations	<i>Paper 1 Rough Draft Due by 2/22</i>
Week 6 2/26	Presentations	<i>Paper 1 Peer Review Due by 2/29</i>
Week 7 3/4	Extinction, Reinforcement, & Recovery: Sniffy Ex. 25-27 Remaining Presentations	<i>Paper 1 Final Draft Due by 3/7</i>
Week 8 3/11	SPRING BREAK (09 Mar to 15 Mar)	
Week 9 3/18	Punishment: Sniffy Ex. 29-31	<i>Paper 1 Revisions Due by 3/21</i>
Week 10 3/25	Paper 2 Description Review	<i>Select Paper 2 topic</i>
Week 11 4/1	Video Discussion Groups	
Week 12 4/8	EC Activities	
Week 13	EC Activities	

PSYC - 201/202: Principles of Learning Lab
Spring 2020

4/15		
Week 14 4/22	One-on-One Writing Consult sessions	- Sessions optional (sign-up) - Bring drafts, notes, and questions
Week 15 4/29	-	<i>Paper 2 due</i>