# Instructor: Chloe Mondok

**Email:** cmondok@gmu.edu

**Office Hours:** by appointment (over Zoom)

**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

**Required Software:**

Sniffy Virtual Rat Pro Version 3.0 (purchase from Microsoft Store / Apple App Store. Links at <http://www.sniffythevirtualrat.com/>.)

**Suggested Text (for reference)**:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association,* 7th 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*](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)*.*

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sniffy Exercises | Best 20 of 22 | 1% each | 20% |
| Quizzes | 4 quizzes | 5% each | 20% |
| Paper 1 | outline |  | 5% |
|  | draft |  | 5% |
|  | final |  | 10% |
| Paper 2 | outline |  | 5% |
|  | draft |  | 5% |
|  | final |  | 20% |
| Peer review |  |  | 10% |

***This lab will count as 25% of your total grade towards Psyc304***. ***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+ = 97 – 100%

A = 94 – 96%

A- = 90 – 93%

 B+ = 87 – 89%

 B = 84 – 86%
 B- = 80 – 83%

 C+ = 77 – 79%

 C = 74 – 76%
 C- - 70 – 73%

 D = 60 – 69%

 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 *September 7th.* The final drop deadline (50% tuition refund) is *September 14th.*

**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, Blackboard maintenance shutdown, student illness, etc.).

**Reading:** Reading should be completed by the dates indicated on the schedule.

**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**. Specific directions for completing these experiments are laid out in the book.

**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. 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/>

**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 15% 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**: Due to the online, asynchronous nature of this course, it is not expected that the schedule deviate from what is specified. Should something change, I will let you know via email. Accommodations for students 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). But make sure to email me if unsure.

***\*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.***

**Schedule**

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

**Week 1: August 23rd**

Read: Chapter 2 – Introduction to Classical Conditioning

 Watch: The Introduction to Sniffy video

 Experiment: Sample Screenshot of Data Window due

 Read and Watch: Library Tutorials

 Quick Quiz: Research Tools and Search Techniques

**Week 2: August 30th**

Read: Chapter 3 – Basic Phenomena of Classical Conditioning

 Watch: The Sniffy Exercises 1-3 Tutorial video

 Experiment: Exercises 1, 2, 3

 Watch: A slideshow on APA style

 Quick Quiz: APA Style Overview

 Start work on: Paper 1 Outline

**Week 3: September 6th**

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

 Experiment: Exercises 7, 8

 Read: References

 Quick Quiz: APA References

Submit: Paper 1 Outline

**Week 4: September 13th**

 Read: Chapter 6 – Associative Structures in Classical Conditioning

 Experiment: Exercises 12, 13

 Read: In-text Citations

 Quick Quiz: APA In-text Citations

 Start work on: Paper 1 Draft

**Week 5: September 20th**

 Read: Chapter 9 – Introduction to Operant Conditioning

 Submit: Paper 1 Draft

**Week 6: September 27th**

 Read: Chapter 10 – Basic Operant Phenomena

 Experiment: Exercises 25, 26, 27

 Start work on: Paper 1 Final Version

**Week 7: October 4th**

 Read: Chapter 12 – Schedules of Reinforcement

 Experiment: Exercises 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

 Submit: Paper 1 Final Version

**Week 8: October 11th**

Read: Chapter 13 – Stimulus Discrimination and Stimulus Generalization

 Experiment: Exercises 39, 40, 43, 44

Submit: Paper 2 Outline

**Week 9: October 18th**

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

 Exercises: 29, 30

 Start work on: Paper 2 Draft

**Week 10: October 25th**

 Submit: Paper 2 Draft to Peers

**Week 11: November 1st**

 Review: Peer Papers

**Week 12: November 8th**

 Revise: Paper 2 Draft based on peer feedback

 Submit: Paper 2 Draft to Instructor

**Week 13: November 15th**

 Revise: Paper 2 Final Version

**Week 14: November 22nd**

 Submit: Paper 2 Final Version