

## Principles of Learning and Memory (Psyc 304)

**Section:** 0201  
**Location:** IN 317  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:50

**Section:** 0202  
**Location:** IN 317  
**Time:** 8:00 – 9:50

**Instructor:** Kevin Young  
**E-mail:** [kyoung16@gmu.edu](mailto:kyoung16@gmu.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Monday 12:00-1:00 or by appointment in Aquia 337  
**Phone:** 703-993-5212

**Required Texts:** Alloway, T, Wilson, G. & Graham, J (2005). *Sniffy the Virtual Rat*. (pro version 2.0). Thompson Wadsworth.

\*\*\*Students are expected to bring textbooks and CD every class

**Objectives:** This lab is designed to give students an opportunity to practically apply theories that you are learning in lecture. Using the virtual program, Sniffy the rat, students will gain hands-on experience in research design and data collection relating to basic behavior modifications. In addition, students will strengthen their understanding and interpretation of data analysis. Students will gain a proficiency in APA format through in-class assignments, as well as homework requiring students to read and interpret journal articles and work to enhance their writing skills.

**Grading:** The lab will be worth 250 points and will count as 25% of your final grade in this course. Points will be broken down into the following assignments:

- 20 pts – Class participation: earned through worksheets, in class assignments (including experiments) and general attendance.
- 10 pts – Quizzes: A total of 3 multiple choice quizzes will be distributed in class (5pts each). The lowest one will be dropped and quizzes cannot be made up.
- 10 pts – Draft for Paper 1
- 100 pts – Final for Paper 1 \*\*
- 10 pts – Draft for Paper 2
- 100 pts – Final for Paper 2\*\*

\*\* I will distribute a grading rubric for all written assignments to make grading as objective as possible.

**Late Work:** Quizzes and in-class assignments cannot be made up. If you are absent it is your responsibility to cover the material you missed. Late papers will be accepted up to one week late for an automatic letter grade reduction. Papers that are overdue by more than one week will **NOT** be accepted.

**Honor Code:** The honor code will be strictly enforced and students will be expected to comply by not cheating, stealing, plagiarizing, or be dishonest in their academic work. 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/>.

The sanctions for being found guilty of an honor code violation can include but are not limited to receiving an F in this course or permanent dismissal from the university. Honor code violations are assessed by an Honor Code Committee.

For a plagiarism tutorial, please visit: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>

**Writing Intensive:** Psyc304 has been approved as a writing intensive course. The laboratory portion of the course requires students to complete two papers in APA style. 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.

APA online manual: [Purdue Online APA Manual](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

**Technology Usage:** Communications regarding classes and important announcements will be disseminated through GMU e-mail accounts. Students are expected to regularly check their e-mail accounts.

**If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.**

### **Important Dates**

**Last day to add a class – January 31**

**Last day to drop a class – February 24**

**Last day for a selective withdrawal – Mar 30**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1/31	Intro to Course	Sniffy Ch 1
2/7	Classical Conditioning	Sniffy Ch 2 & 3
2/14	Background Conditioning	Sniffy Ch 8
2/21	Compound Conditioning	Sniffy Ch 4
2/28	Higher Order Conditioning and Wrap up	Sniffy Ch 5 & 6
3/6	Intro to Operant Conditioning	Sniffy Ch 9 & 10 <b>DUE: Draft of Paper 1</b>
3/13	SPRING BREAK!!!	Relax.
3/20	Schedules of Reinforcement	Sniffy Ch 9 & 10
3/27	Stimulus Discrimination/Generalization	Sniffy Ch 13 <b>DUE: Final of Paper 1</b>
4/3	Intro to Punishment	Sniffy Ch 11
4/10	Punishment	Sniffy Ch 11
4/17	APA Write Up Overview	<b>Due: Draft of Paper 2</b>
4/24	Differential Reinforcement	None
5/1	Shaping Sniffy	Ch. 14. <b>Due: Final Paper 2</b>
5/8	Shaping Sniffy (Cont)	Ch 14

\*\*I reserve the right to make edits to this schedule based on several factors, including the progression of lecture.\*\*