

Principles of Learning: Lab Section

Psyc 304/Summer '06

330 Innovation Hall

2B1: MW 4-5:50 pm / 2B2: MW 6-7:50 pm

Instructor: Andrew Burns

Email: aburns@gmu.edu **Lab Phone:** 703-993-1358

Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30pm in 2034 David King Hall

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

*Students are expected to bring their Sniffy book to every lab

Additional reading assignments may be given throughout the semester.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this lab is to give you some hands-on experience dealing with basic learning principles. Instead of working with actual rats, the Sniffy program will give you the opportunity to work with virtual lab animals and collect experimental data. We will work towards understanding, interpreting, and writing about our findings.

Grading:

This lab is worth 100 out of 300 points. The lecture with Dr. Perez is worth 200 points and so the lab will be 1/3 of your final grade.

- There will be assignments in lab to be completed and handed in for points. Failure to show up for lab will result in a zero for that day's assignments.
- Homework may be given and is expected on the next lab day unless otherwise stated.
- Any work that is not turned in on time will result in a zero.
- Quizzes may also be given throughout the semester.

*There are no exams for the lab section.

The points will be tallied as follows:

3 papers:	60 points (20 points each)
Drafts of papers 1 & 2:	15 points (10 for draft 1 and 5 for draft 2)
In class assignments:	15 points
Quizzes:	10 points (2 points for each of 5 quizzes)
Extra credit:	5 points (Specifics TBA)

Email: We will be using email for updates on assignments, notes, etc. You need to be able to send and receive email on a regular basis throughout the semester. Make sure that you get any computer or internet problems sorted out at the start of the term.

- **My PowerPoint presentations will be made available to you before coming to each lab.**

Honor System: The Honor Code of George Mason University will be strictly enforced in this course. It is a student's responsibility to be familiar with the Honor Code and to abide by it at all times.

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.

Note: *Last day to add - June 14th*
 Last day to drop - June 21st

Resources: <http://library.gmu.edu>

Tentative Schedule: subject to change

- 6/05: Intro to Sniffy / Overview of APA style writing
- 6/07: Blocking (Experiment 1)
- 6/12: Blocking-Intro due
- 6/14: Blocking-Methods and Results due
- 6/19: Blocking-Discussion and Abstract due
- 6/21: Pre-exposure effect aka latent inhibition (Experiment 2)
- 6/26: Pre-exposure effect / Final Blocking paper due
- 6/28: Pre-exposure effect: First Draft of paper due for Exp. 2
- 7/03: No Class
- 7/05: Punishment (Experiment 3)
- 7/10: Punishment / Final Pre-exposure paper due
- 7/12: Punishment
- 7/17: Final Punishment paper due
- 7/19: TBA
- 7/24: No Class