

# PSC/IR 106: Week 2 Recitation

William Spaniel

[williamspaniel@gmail.com](mailto:williamspaniel@gmail.com)

[wjspaniel.wordpress.com/pscir-106](http://wjspaniel.wordpress.com/pscir-106)

# Agenda

- Introduction/Ice Breaker
- Section expectations
- Scheduling office hours
- How to read papers/books
- How to write essays that will not get bad grades
- Bipolarity rant (time permitting)

# Section Imbalance

- The 12:00 section has 35 people.
- The 2:00 section has ~10 people.
- Your section grade is worth 30% of your overall grade.
  - Your grade will be better if you speak up more often in class.
  - It's easier to speak up in a 10 person class than a 35 person class.
- Anyone want to switch?

# Introduction/Icebreaker

- Name
- What makes you awesome
- One thing that you want to get out of this class/recitation

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- Name
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- Example
- William Spaniel

# Introduction/Icebreaker

- | • Name  | Example   |
|---|---|
| • What makes you awesome                                      | • William Spaniel                               |
| • One thing that you want to get out of this class/recitation | • I'm going to be interviewed on NPR next week. |

# Introduction/Icebreaker

- | • Name  | Example   |
|---|---|
| • What makes you awesome                                      | • William Spaniel   |
| • One thing that you want to get out of this class/recitation | • I'm going to be interviewed on NPR next week.<br>• I want to give everybody an A. |

# Section Expectations

- Section is worth 30% of your grade.
- Attendance is *mandatory*.
  - I will excuse one absence.
- Quizzes?
  - Please don't make me.

# Scheduling Office Hours

- One hour will be Fridays, 1 pm to 2 pm here (assuming no one else occupies this room during that time).
- Second hour will be 1 pm to 2 pm on Monday or Wednesday.
  - Let's vote.

# Finding Readings Online

- Google the article title. This usually works.
- If this doesn't work, you are in trouble.
  - Next step is to try [library.rochester.edu](http://library.rochester.edu)
    - Godspeed.
  - We'll try to Blackboard everything things that are not readily accessible.

# How to Read

- Read the title. (Seriously.)
- Read the abstract.
- Read the introduction and conclusion.
- Read the rest.

# Professor Goemans' Five Questions

1. What is the central question?
2. What is the answer?
3. Why is this answer right?
4. What are the competing explanations?
5. Why are they wrong?

# I Wish I Knew This as a Freshman

- Interested in maximizing your long term goals at the University of Rochester? Talk to the professor.
  - He's more important than I am.
- Interested in maximizing your short term goals at the University of Rochester? Talk to me.
  - I'm grading your stuff.

# How Not to Write a Bad Essay

1. ATQ/ATFQ
2. Put your thesis in the top half of the first page.
3. Be direct. Don't hide your answer. Don't make it hard for us to find your answer.
4. Use paragraphs.
5. Cite the readings.

The purpose of this slide is to explain why you should use paragraphs. Note that there are no run on sentences in this paragraph. I am only using short sentences. Each sentence has a straightforward meaning. Yet you will probably have a hard time finishing this paragraph. Are you still with me? Good. I hope you are having a wonderful day. I am so far. I enjoy teaching. I also enjoy corrupting the youth with my teaching. I guess I should not have typed that last sentence. Oh well.

Anyway...where was I? Oh yes—the usefulness of paragraphs. While they are necessary organize your thoughts, they also have a more practical purpose. If you stopped reading this paragraph after the third sentence, you probably stopped reading this slide in general. That is normal. When a reader gets bored of a paragraph (or is skimming your paper), he skips to the next one. If the next paragraph is two pages away, your reader will miss a lot of information. Fortunately, I am A Good Teaching Assistant™, so I would not get bored or skim your material. But I heard you have an evil TA for psychology. So, to practice appeasing him, you might as well adopt this strategy in Introduction to International Relations as well.

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# A Quick Rant

- Bipolarity is a total buzzword!
  - Same goes for unipolarity and multipolarity.
- They are useful when you are talking about these issues to your grandmother.
  - They is embarrassingly imprecise if we want to maintain the illusion that we are political *science*.