September 11  Giving Lectures

Goal: provide some ideas of how to develop your own lecture style

Question: why is it beneficial to become a good lecturer? [class discussion, where presentations in class, research presentations, conference talks and job talks usually come up]

[I tell them as first semester TA’s, they should get the cake down before they start working on the icing. As they gain confidence, they should add elements of the icing gradually. The ice cream represents other issues that you almost always need to consider along with the cake and icing. I give them an outline of a lecture I give that contains most of the elements in the outline, and

CAKE:

1. Know your topic well
2. Organize the material in a logical sequence (including Powerpoint, if used)
3. Have learning objectives
4. Consider using student-active breaks every 20 minutes or changes of pace
5. Help students consolidate/apply/assess learning

ICING

1. Lectures should have a hook that engages students right away
2. You should convey your own interest, passion, curiosity throughout (but don’t speed up your speaking rate!)
3. The lecture should have a strong story arc (beginning, middle, end)
4. You can embed other stories (e.g., of a research study or extended example)
5. Use techniques to help them prioritize information
6. Use anecdotes, contemporary examples, personal examples, or short videos
7. Afterwards, make notes on how it could be improved

ICE CREAM

1. Asking questions of students – types and methods
2. Answering student questions – general rules and types of answers
3. Powerpoint styles
   a. Presenting graphs
   b. Presenting diagrams
   c. Using animation
   d. Using photos
4. What to put on Powerpoint vs. handout
5. Handout styles
6. Use of the board

EXAMPLE OF A LECTURE THAT CONTAINS MANY OF THESE FEATURES