TEACHING PORTFOLIO

John Romero

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a. Teaching Philosophy

My purpose as an educator is to bridge industry practice with classroom principles. With a career in software engineering and cybersecurity, I prepare students in Systems Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Technology not just for exams, but for professional success. Education is transformative, building critical thinking, technical agility, and resilience in a fast-evolving tech landscape.
I am motivated by courses that serve as students' entry to the field or career pivot. As a guide and mentor, I spark curiosity and provide practical support.

Guiding Principles

1. **Authentic, Application-Based Learning**: I use real-world scenarios, like network design and development simulations or CI/CD pipelines, to apply concepts, fostering strategic problem-solving.

2. **High Support and High Challenge**: I set ambitious goals matched with mentorship, frameworks, and feedback, building competence and confidence.

3. **Collaborative and Inclusive Community**: Technology is collaborative; my classroom reflects this with team projects, peer reviews, and discussions. I support diverse learners, drawing from my journey to address barriers for underrepresented groups in STEM.

4. **Career Readiness**: Modules integrate tools like AWS, Python, and Wireshark, linking theory to trends in cloud security and DevOps, empowering students as future innovators.

   Finally, teaching is my opportunity to empower the next generation of technologists. It is a privilege to provide students with knowledge, skills, and, most importantly, belief in their own potential to shape the future through technology.

b. Educational and Career Journey

My journey blends industry expertise with academic passion, informing my student-centered teaching:

EDUCATION:

- Doctor of Education and Leadership in Information Systems ***(Expected 2028)***
  University of the Cumberlands , Williamsburg, KY

- Master of Science in Information Systems and Security
  Florida International University, Miami, FL

- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Internet of Things (IoT)
  Florida International University, Miami, FL | Graduated w/Honors: Cum Laude

CERTIFICATIONS & LEADERSHIP:

- Online Teaching and Effective College Instruction (ACUE)
- Digital Forensics (FIU)
- Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt
- AWS Academy Educator

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Faculty Lecturer in Information Systems, Houston Christian University (August 2025 – Present): Deliver courses blending theory with practice.
- Adjunct Faculty in Cybersecurity, Miami Dade College Online (April 2022 – Present): Integrated industry tools to enhance online learning.
- Software Engineer, General Motors, Austin, TX (March 2022 – September 2024): Optimized systems, informing my teaching of real-world QA.
- IT Director of Technology, Centner Academy, Miami, FL (July 2021 – February 2022): Led tech infrastructure, applying to curriculum design.
- Cybersecurity Specialist & Network Administrator, Gunderlin, Miami (August 2019 – June 2021): Managed networks for 250+ users, boosting efficiency 20%.
- Integrated Solutions Consultant and Technician, AT&T, Miami (January 2015 – August 2019): Resolved issues, building stakeholder skills./2019

c. Courses Delivered

Miami Dade College Online (2022-2025)

CGS 1060 Computer Office Applications
This course helps students develop the advanced skills that are necessary in personal productivity office applications, such as word processing, data management and analysis, and presentation/slide design. The course follows best practices and reviews available internet tools for data storage.

ISM 4011 Management of Information Systems
This course explores how information systems are strategically managed to achieve business objectives and create competitive advantage. Students learn to analyze organizational processes and align technology solutions to support operational and strategic goals.

CTS 1120 Cybersecurity Fundamentals
This course introduces the core principles of securing information systems, including threats, vulnerabilities, and risk management. Students gain a foundational understanding of security policies, access controls, and ethical responsibilities in the digital world.

CET 2880 Digital Forensics
This hands-on course covers the methods for collecting, preserving, and analyzing digital evidence from various devices and operating systems. Students learn forensic tools and techniques to investigate cyber incidents in a legally sound manner.

CTS 2314 Network Defense and Countermeasure
This course focuses on proactive strategies and technologies used to protect network infrastructure from attacks. Students configure firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and other security controls to monitor, detect, and respond to network threats.

CTS 1134 Networking Fundamentals
This course provides a comprehensive introduction to network architectures, protocols, and hardware, including the OSI and TCP/IP models. Students gain practical experience in configuring routers and switches to build functional local area networks (LANs).

CNT 3409 Network Security
Delving deeper into defensive security, this course covers advanced topics such as VPNs, cryptographic protocols, and secure network design. Students implement

and test security solutions to harden enterprise networks against sophisticated attacks.

CTS 1145 Cloud Essentials
This course introduces the fundamental concepts of cloud computing, including service models (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS) and deployment strategies. Students explore the practicalities of cloud migration, security, and cost management using major platforms like AWS and Azure.

CTS 1540 Database Fundamentals and Design
This course covers the principles of relational database design, structured query language (SQL), and data normalization. Students learn to create, query, and manage databases to support application development and business intelligence.

CGS 1700 Intro to Operative Systems
This course examines the core functions of modern operating systems, including process management, memory allocation, file systems, and security. Students compare the architecture of major OS platforms like Windows, Linux, and macOS.

CTS 1111 Linux
This practical course provides students with the skills to effectively use and administer Linux operating systems. Topics include command-line proficiency, file system management, shell scripting, and configuring essential network services.

Houston Christian University (2025-2026)

COSC 1351 Programming Languages I (Phyton)
This course introduces the foundational principles of software development using Python, focusing on syntax, data structures, and algorithmic thinking. Students learn to design, code, test, and debug procedural programs to solve computational problems.

COSC 2355 Database Management
This course explores the core concepts of database systems, including relational design, SQL for data definition and manipulation, and introductory administration tasks. Students gain practical experience in creating, querying, and managing databases to support applications.

COSC 3342 Network Fundamentals
This course provides a comprehensive introduction to modern network architectures, protocols, and technologies, including the OSI and TCP/IP models.

Students analyze data flow and configure fundamental network services in a lab environment.

CYEN 3331 Network Security
This course delves into the principles and practices of securing network infrastructures against internal and external threats. Students implement and analyze security countermeasures such as firewalls, VPNs, and intrusion detection systems.

CYSC 2311 System Administration
This course covers the essential tasks of installing, configuring, and maintaining modern operating systems and network services. Students develop practical skills in user management, resource allocation, and automation in both Windows and Linux environments.

COSC 1352 Programming Language II (Object-Oriented Programming)
Building on foundational knowledge, this course advances into object-oriented programming (OOP) concepts, complex data structures, and software development methodologies. Students apply these principles to design and implement more robust, scalable applications.

d. Students' Feedback

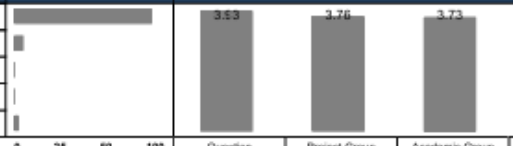
Miami Dade College
Spring 2024 (2243) | Student Feedback: ALTERNATE | 16W 14W 12W 10W 8W2 6W2 4W3 MON & WKD Courses

Course: CTS2314-2243-10808: CTS2314-2243-10808|Network Defense and Countermea
Instructor: John Romero *
Response Rate: 31/36 (86.11 %)

1 - 1. The instructor treats me with respect.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	28	90.32%
Agree	(3)	2	6.45%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%

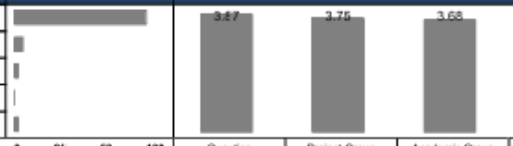


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.93	0.25	4.00	49273	3.76	0.53	4.00	4981	3.73	0.55	4.00

2 - 2. The instructor is knowledgeable about his/her subject matter.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	27	87.10%
Agree	(3)	2	6.45%
Disagree	(2)	1	3.23%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%

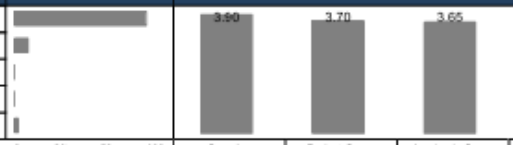


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.87	0.43	4.00	49273	3.75	0.54	4.00	4981	3.68	0.60	4.00

3 - 3. The instructor provided an up-to-date syllabus at the beginning of the term.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	27	87.10%
Agree	(3)	3	9.68%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%

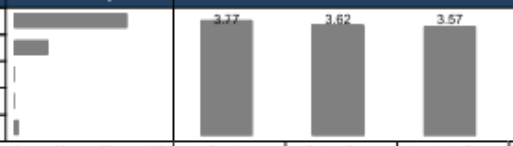


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.90	0.31	4.00	49273	3.70	0.61	4.00	4981	3.65	0.66	4.00

4 - 4. The instructor is organized in his/her work

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	23	74.19%
Agree	(3)	7	22.58%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.77	0.43	4.00	49273	3.62	0.70	4.00	4981	3.57	0.73	4.00

5 - 5. The instructor is available for individual help during office hours or by appointment, via phone, e-mail/online, or in person.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	26	83.87%
Agree	(3)	4	12.90%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%

Percent Responses: 0 25 50 100

Means: 3.87 3.66 3.60 — Question | Project Group | Academic Group

Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.87	0.35	4.00	49273	3.66	0.64	4.00	4981	3.60	0.68	4.00

6 - 6. The instructor informs me about my progress.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	24	77.42%
Agree	(3)	6	19.35%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	3.23%

Percent Responses: 0 25 50 100

Means: 3.80 3.56 3.53 — Question | Project Group | Academic Group

Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
31/36 (86.11%)	3.80	0.41	4.00	49273	3.56	0.76	4.00	4981	3.53	0.77	4.00

Miami Dade College

Spring 2023 (2233) | Student Feedback: ALTERNATE | 16W 14W 12W 10W 8W2 6W2 4W3 MON & WKD Courses

Course: ISM4011-2233-5754: ISM4011-2233-5754

Instructor: John Romero *

Response Rate: 6/6 (100.00 %)

1 - 1. The instructor treats me with respect.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

Percent Responses: 0 25 50 100

Means: 3.83 3.77 3.81 — Question | Project Group | Academic Group

Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	39571	3.77	0.52	4.00	2157	3.81	0.48	4.00

2 - 2. The instructor is knowledgeable about his/her subject matter.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	6	100.00%
Agree	(3)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

Percent Responses: 0 25 50 100

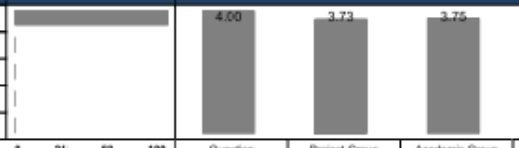
Means: 4.00 3.76 3.80 — Question | Project Group | Academic Group

Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	4.00	0.00	4.00	39571	3.76	0.52	4.00	2157	3.80	0.49	4.00

3 - 3. The instructor provided an up-to-date syllabus at the beginning of the term.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	6	100.00%
Agree	(3)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

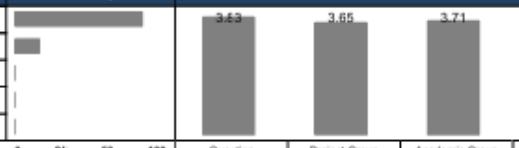


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	4.00	0.00	4.00	39571	3.73	0.57	4.00	2157	3.75	0.55	4.00

4 - 4. The instructor is organized in his/her work

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

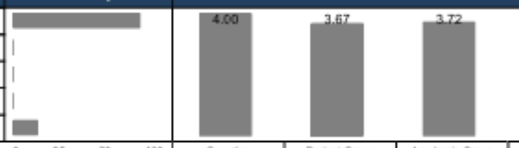


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	39571	3.65	0.68	4.00	2157	3.71	0.62	4.00

5 - 5. The instructor is available for individual help during office hours or by appointment, via phone, e-mail/online, or in person.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	1	16.67%

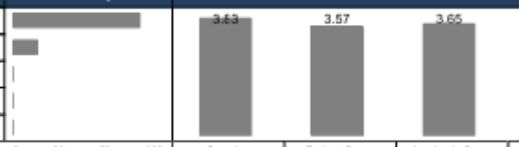


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	4.00	0.00	4.00	39571	3.67	0.64	4.00	2157	3.72	0.59	4.00

6 - 6. The instructor informs me about my progress.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/6 (100.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	39571	3.57	0.74	4.00	2157	3.65	0.67	4.00

Miami Dade College

Spring 2024 (2243) | Student Feedback: ALTERNATE | 4W1 4W2 6W1 8W1 Courses

Course: CTS1120-2243-5786: CTS1120-2243-5786|Cybersecurity Fundamentals

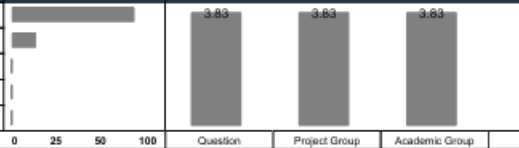
Instructor: John Romero *

Response Rate: 6/12 (50.00 %)

1 - 1. The instructor treats me with respect.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

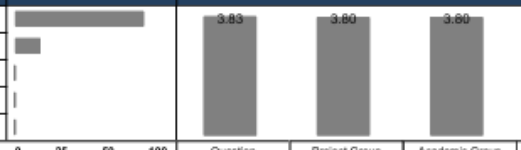


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.83	0.46	4.00	348	3.83	0.48	4.00

2 - 2. The instructor is knowledgeable about his/her subject matter.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

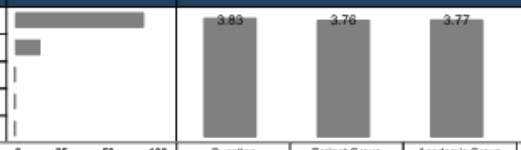


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.80	0.49	4.00	348	3.80	0.52	4.00

3 - 3. The instructor provided an up-to-date syllabus at the beginning of the term.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

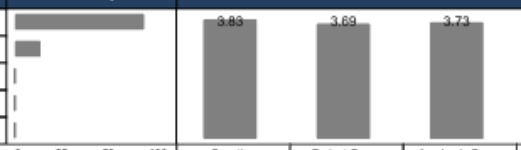


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.76	0.56	4.00	348	3.77	0.55	4.00

4 - 4. The instructor is organized in his/her work.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%



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6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.69	0.65	4.00	348	3.73	0.61	4.00

5 - 5. The instructor is available for individual help during office hours or by appointment, via phone, e-mail/online, or in person.

John Romero

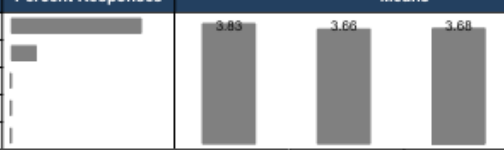
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%

Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.73	0.59	4.00	348	3.74	0.58	4.00

6 - 6. The instructor informs me about my progress.

John Romero

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Agree	(4)	5	83.33%
Agree	(3)	1	16.67%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Strongly Disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Does Not Apply or Unable to Comment	(0)	0	0.00%



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	Project Group	Mean	STD	Median	Academic Group	Mean	STD	Median
6/12 (50.00%)	3.83	0.41	4.00	5212	3.66	0.66	4.00	348	3.68	0.62	4.00

e. References – Letter of Recommendation

Miami Dade College

August 21st, 2024

Recommendation Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to recommend John Romero for the position he is applying for. As the Department Chair of the School of Business, Engineering, and Technology at Miami Dade College - Padrón Campus, where John has served as an Adjunct Faculty member since 2022 in our Information Systems and Cybersecurity Programs, I have witnessed his exceptional contributions as both an educator and a leader in technology.

John's deep expertise in IT management, governance structures, and resource management makes him an ideal candidate for any role in Technology Management. In the classroom, he effectively blends theory with practical application, clearly conveying complex concepts and equipping students to thrive in a rapidly changing tech landscape. Beyond teaching, John has been instrumental in integrating cutting-edge technology into our curriculum. His experience as a Technology Engineer, coupled with his commitment to staying ahead of industry trends, has been particularly valuable in areas like cybersecurity and cloud computing, directly impacting the success of our programs. John's strong ethical standards and technical expertise are complemented by his ability to manage complex IT systems and lead strategic initiatives. His collaborative spirit and commitment to continuous improvement will undoubtedly benefit your organization.

I am confident that John will bring the same dedication, innovation, and leadership to your team as he has to our college. He is a visionary leader who aligns technology with organizational goals, and I highly recommend him for the role he is applying for.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

James A. Thomas
James A. Thomas (Aug 21, 2024 18:29 EDT)

Dr. James A. Thomas, MBA, DBA
Department Chair
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