

CIS 301 Theory of Computation - Student comments

Fall 2020

Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course

- It feels like this course could have been a lot shorter and conglomerated with something like the other theory courses. Not a fault of Dr. Gurajala of course.
- Theory taught over zoom was a little rough. I personally struggled with the course pacing vs the powerpoint format of the Spring semester. I liked being able to chunk out homework and course work and take on entire units. This semester was very jarring in that we were almost stopping and going and the pace felt off. I do not blame Dr. G for this but rather the circumstances of the pandemic. I like that we have a pile of examples. I don't mind the homework being a slight bit different than what we have for notes. The tests we're not my favorite part though. I think especially with Zoom it was rough. Personally I would've preferred take home or open note tests. I was not as comfortable with the material as I wanted to be. I again blame that on the need to be on Zoom in the Fall vs say powerpoint in the Spring.
- So much information goes into this course, I learned things in this class, I had no idea of before this semester started.

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?

- Dr. G is awesome, she is good at providing a mountain of examples but the pacing can be a little jarring at times. She is a very good professor though and I would absolutely take another course with her.
- Gurajala is caring, she cares about her student well being and about their academic performance. She does not mind re-explaining something as many times as we need; her main goal is to make sure that her students actually learn. The course, moves very fast, I recognize this is not the instructors' fault, but because so much material is covered throughout the semester, it is easy to get lost
- very rapidly. One of Gurajala weaknesses is that she would go past class time on a regular basis, but for the most part we did not mind it as much, that only goes to show how passionate she is about teaching. I would definitely take another class with her.

Fall 2019

Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course

- The content of the course is approachable for the requirements involved it just seems dense for the level it's advertised as.

- The course content was organized and well structured.
- If I took this course with any other instructor, I don't think I would have learned as effectively
- Overall very confusing material. Dr. G teaches it fairly well, but very fast.
- Course was challenging for 301 course.
- Absolutely fantastic. All of the work was related to the class. It never felt like busy work. The tests actually tested our understanding of the material and it was not filler/random questions.
- The textbook is very expensive but very good. The best textbook because it really helped me learn when I was confused.
- Very tough content, was very interesting and adequately challenging.

Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?

- The instructor is very knowledgeable. she's good at reciting information. The content of the course is conceptually difficult to grasp. We'll Take another course
- Dr. Gurajala went to fast through content making it hard to keep up with examples in class. otherwise did a good job instructing.
- I would take another class with Dr. G. but she would be more effective if she spoke and wrote on the board slower.
- Slow down.
- Great instructor. I would take another course from this instructor.
- Dr. Gurajala shows mastery over the material. I look forward to taking another class offered by her.
- Very effective in teaching. I would be more than happy to take a course with her again.
- Is very confident about material, sometimes loses students due to density and difficulty of the content.

Fall 2018

Please comment on course content, requirements or any other aspect of the course

- The course contents were reasonable and related well to the course
- It went well. Content of the course could get confusing and hard for the professor to explain at times
- Some topics need more time like Turing machines before giving an exam
- Automated machines and how they work
- Wish there was more out-of-class work. Homeworks are great for learning new material but we only had three of them.
- Perfectly paced, lots of topics but built on correctly
- The quizzes are tough since they are given randomly with no warning

- Course content is a little messy in my opinion, could've been better ways to make the contents understandable and less confusing drawings.
- The course was just as expected, don't really have any comments on it.
- Course can be difficult for those who haven't done much with math theory
- A great course for CS. Good building block style of going from simplest and gradually to complex content
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Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. Would you take another course from this instructor?

- Best professor in the department. Grades relative to her own teaching of the course, extraordinarily fair, willing to listen and communicate and has always been helpful when finding the time for me. Would recommend taking any class with her
- The professor was very open to helping, very understanding, and I enjoyed taking a course with her. Sometimes there would be problems with confusing lectures but that happens as a new teacher. I would love to take another course with her.
- Good instructor.
- Of course! Dr. Gurajala is a fantastic professor
- Yes I would take another course from this instructor
- I like how she uses the chalkboard a lot when teaching, I find it easier to take notes and follow at the same time.
- Great work especially since it's her first time teaching the course
- Goes too fast with the notes occasionally
- Presents the subjects thoroughly with plenty of examples. I look forward to taking another class with this instructor