Narrative Summary of Teaching

In my last six semesters at SUNY Potsdam, my teaching commitment has given me the opportunity to teach eight different courses. Of these, two courses were entirely conceptualized, developed, and taught by me. Developing one of these courses, CIS 431 Machine Learning, was my major new teaching initiative in the last year. This course, currently being offered (Spring 2020), will become part of a new Data Analytics concentration that we will be offering our students soon. For this concentration, I will also need to develop another new course, Big Data Architecture, in the coming semesters.

In the last 2 semesters, I have taught 5 different courses, including CIS 475, Introduction to Cryptography, (which was a new course that I introduced in Spring 2018), CIS 410: Computer Networks, CIS 420: Database Systems, CIS 201: Computer Science 1 (including lab; Spring and Fall), and CIS 301: Theory of computation. These courses include students from Freshmen to Seniors. I have been constantly revising these courses to keep up with changes in the field. These revisions include: introduction of a lab in the Computer Networks course, incorporation of Big Data concepts and projects in the Database course, and inclusion of research paper reviews in all 400-level courses.

In each of the courses I have taught, I have focused on effective student participation and activity-based learning through the use of in-class quizzes, group projects, and practical labs. I bring in practical examples to help students better relate to the topics. This point was noted by one of our students (Eric Zair '20) in his interview for SUNY Potsdam's CS Web page (https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/depts/CS/Zair).

Reflecting the effort that I put into the courses, my student evaluations, as in years past, were highly positive. My "overall rating of teacher" averaged for all my courses taught in 2019 was 1.42 (placing me between Excellent (rating 1) and Good (rating 2)). I was also fortunate to have my peers sit in several of my classes and evaluate me and they were highly positive about my offering. I always carefully look through the feedback from my students and peers to see how I can improve and modify my teaching style/content.

I've actively participated in University initiatives to bring new technologies to the classroom. Towards this end, I attended the Center for Creative Instruction workshop (Jan 2020) and plan on using some of the technologies introduced during the workshop to ensure teaching continuity is maintained during class cancellations because of weather or other reasons.

Overall, 2019 was an active period for me that has been filled with wonderful learning experiences and significant professional growth and I'm hoping 2020 will be more of the same.