

### **Teaching Reflections - CIS 475 Introduction to Cryptography**

This is a new course that was offered for the first time in the department by me in Spring 2018. This course is a critical course in computer security field and will be one of the required courses for computer security concentration that the department will be introducing shortly.

This course was well received by students who particularly appreciated the novel homeworks that I introduced. The homeworks were encrypted ciphers – students had to first decipher the homework question before they could address it. This course challenged the students but they seemed to enjoy the challenge and were largely up to it.

The course is highly mathematical with a significant focus on number theory and the students commented that they felt that the material was difficult and wanted more homeworks related to this section. This is a criticism that I'm currently addressing during my current offering. Some students and Prof. Ladd, who audited the entire course, also commented that the pace of the course was fast and this criticism I'm addressing by reviewing the content that I'm covering and taking time to regularly revise the material in each successive class.