

Teaching Reflections - CIS 431 Machine Learning

CIS 431 is a 3-credit course that was design by me and offered for the first time in Spring 2020. This is an elective course geared towards seniors in Computer Science and Mathematics. This course covers the principles of machine learning and Big Data and brings in the latest advances in the field.

In this course, I introduced the latest platforms (e.g Jupyter Notebook) and tools (e.g TensorFlow) used in the field. The course was designed such that students used real-world data for assignments and projects. With the pandemic, I was able to seamlessly move the course to online asynchronous mode. I continued to design programming assignments and quizzes to align with my weekly recorded lectures.

The switch to online mode made it difficult for me to converse and keep up with my students. Subsequently, some students fell behind in their homework assignments and projects and I had to repeatedly reach out to them to ensure that they submitted their course material.

I received very positive reviews from students during the course and at the end of the semester, and also from my colleagues who sat in the class. I expect to offer this course again next year and continue its development.