

Teaching Reflections - CIS 301 Theory of Computation

This course is a required course for computer science students. I have taught this course 5 times: Fall 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

After the first two offerings, I determined that the course needed to be enhanced with more examples and in-class quizzes, as the material can be quite abstract and students previously expressed some difficulty with grasping some of the concepts in the course. The course is highly mathematical and requires analytical thinking. Using examples, in-class quizzes, and tailored homework, I tried to help students relate and visualize the concepts better and from the evaluations, this approach seemed to have helped.

The synchronous virtual offering of the course in Fall 2020 went well. The availability of recorded lectures for offline viewing allowed students to go back and review challenging concepts at their own pace.