

## **CIS 475 Introduction to Cryptography- Students comments**

### **Spring 2018**

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

- I enjoyed the class. We talked about a lot of things that nobody really knows. The material really opens your mind to all of computer security
- I feel there are simply too much covered in this course. The background math required to understand is too great. Ex. group theory/fields. I said just covering less ciphers and spending more time on each
- The content was fun as well as challenging. The perfect combination. Some of the stats lectures could be condensed into: read this paper
- The course was great. I learned a great deal in the course, very cool assignments
- Course was fun and interesting. I liked learning all the mathematics behind cryptosystems

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

- During lecture switching variable names on the board from your notes is incredibly confusing. For each cipher you could print out notes on encryption/decryption formulas. I also suggest making all of your test open notes.
- Good teaching style, great examples, awesome class
- For being her first time teaching the class it went very well. If I could I would take it again
- A little fast one lecturing. Could have been a little more clear and concise. Overall great. Very good at teaching

### **Spring 2019:**

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

- Tough content, broken down to easy enough parts
- I think a primer on the number theory/ modern algebra as required reading prior to the semester is a necessity. A dedicated textbook for outside reading would be helpful Paar's text is awesome
- The course is a lot of fun and I learned a great deal from it. The content in the course is relevant and meaningful.

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

- Great at the material demonstrating it.
- Pacing of notes was great this semester. Very patient and through examples.
- This isn't my first course with professor G. She always does a fantastic job teaching and is willing to take time to explain things when needed! Always a pleasure

### **Spring 2021:**

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

- Fantastic course and very relevant to the field. It is always a pleasure to take Dr. Gurajala's courses.
- This class was a lot of fun, I learned a great deal about Cryptography and its Crypto systems. There was a lot of math involved, but my instructor made sure to cover all of it; step by step. This really helped all of us keep up.
- Don't have us redo 3 assignments at the end of the semester
- Way too much to cram into one semester. Nothing is taught its just shown to us with no explanation. Everything goes at light speed. If you look down at your paper and look back shes 10 steps ahead of you. Most of the time she knows what she is doing but fails to explain that to her students so she just keeps going. Many times there will be numbers that appear out of nowhere with no explanation. She knows how she got it but we don't because it was never explained.

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

- Always a pleasure to take Dr. Gurajala's courses. She is very knowledgeable in the field and always very patient and accommodating with students. If I were to give one piece of criticism, is that the amount of information that you are hit with is a lot, and it goes fast, so sometimes it can be hard absorbing all of it. That being said, that probably is more on my inability to absorb information that quickly than on her teaching style. The recorded lectures helped out a lot as I was able to go back and watch them over again to catch things I missed. It was a great class!
- Dr. Gurajala is a great instructor, but somehow all of the stress I had this semester came about because of one of her classes. She really pushes us, and I don't mean that in a bad way. She is very smart, I am convinced she is a human calculator. I love that she makes time to help her students, and that

she actually cares about us and our well being. Keep up the awesome work Dr. Gurujala!

- Speeds through lectures so quickly that taking notes becomes tasking, physical labor. Explanations could be much better while running through notes. Grading more frequently and not waiting literally two months to grade things would be beneficial to students.
- Slow down and write more clearly
- She goes over things way too fast with little to no actual teaching. Homework assignments have no instructions just a couple numbers to use so its usually a swing in the dark to do it right. She seemed surprised when a majority of us did the assignments wrong.