

## CSCI 431: *Programming Languages* *General information*

The instructor for CSCI 431 is Dean Brock. The **official** prerequisite for CSCI 431 is CSCI 333; however, students who have done well in CSCI 202 and CSCI 254 show be adequately prepared for the course.

The course will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:05 PM to 4:20 PM in Rhodes 106. The textbook for the course will be *Concepts of Programming Languages* written by Robert Sebesta and published by Benjamin Cummings (ISBN 0-8053-7103-3). The purpose of course is not the study of a bunch of programming languages, but rather the students of **concepts**. We will spend a great deal of time studying the ways in which programming languages are described so that you can lean how to learn new programming languages. We'll also look at common features of programming languages, both ancient and modern.

There will be a few programming assignments. Most will be writing fairly simple programs in languages such as FORTRAN, Ada, and hopefully Prolog. Many of the assignments will be done using the Unix workstations in Robinson 004. If you haven't used Unix workstations before, you should get a copy of *Unix for the Impatient* by Paul Abrahams and Bruce A. Larson (Addison-Wesley, ISBN: 0-201-55703-7).

Grades will be based on a combination of graded homework, *two* in-class exams, and one final exam. The weights given to the various forms of graded material are:

- 40% Homework
- 30% Final exam
- 30% In-classes

The final exam will be given on Thursday, December 16, from 3:05 PM to 5:35 PM. The first in-class exam will be given on Tuesday, September 28. The second exam will be given in mid-November.

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. I do frequently read electronic mail and sending a message to my computer account, brock@cs.unca.edu, is generally the best way to get a prompt response.