

*CSCI 254: Introduction to Computer Organization*  
*General information*

The instructor for *CSCI 254* is Dean Brock. In spite of the "Introduction to" in the course title, *CSCI 254* is a typical *Computer Organization* course in which the principles of computer hardware from circuits, to machine language, to memory management are taught.

The course will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:15 PM to 3:05 PM. The textbook for the course will be *Computer Systems Architecture* written by Morris Mano and published by Prentice Hall (ISBN 0-13-175563-3). Be sure to get the 3rd edition. I hope to cover most of the chapters of the textbook, but I will certainly skip an occasional section. It is a well-written textbook, and you should plan on reading every word within it.

We will use the workstations in Robinson 004 for some course assignments. If you haven't used Unix workstations, you should invest in 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% Midterms (15% each exam)

The final exam will be given on Monday, May 10, from 2:15 PM to 4:45 PM. (Special arrangements will be made for any graduating seniors.) The in-class exams are tentatively scheduled for February 22 and April 12. Most of the homework will be solving problems chosen from the textbook; however, there will be one or two assembly language programming assignments, and there may be a written assignment involving a review of some development in computer architecture.

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](mailto:brock@cs.unca.edu), is generally the best way to get a prompt response.