Course Overview

COMP 455 – 002, Spring 2019
Course Website

- [https://cs.unc.edu/~otternes/comp455/](https://cs.unc.edu/~otternes/comp455/)
- Check for reading and homework assignments
- Assignment dates may be updated
Instructor

- Nathan Otterness
- otternes@cs.unc.edu
  (include “COMP 455” in the subject)
- Tentative office hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:00 AM Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM
- Office: SN 119
Textbook

- The textbook is *Introduction to Automata Theory, Languages, and Computation, 3rd Edition*, by Hopcroft, Motwani and Ullman
- The second edition should be OK too, but not the first edition.
Class Etiquette

- No laptops or phones in class
- Arrive on time and don’t leave early
- No conversations apart from class discussion
- Talk to me in advance if you need an exception!
Honor Code

- Homework must be completed individually
- Do not look for solutions online or post assignments or solutions online!
- Allowed resources (I must approve anything not on this list in advance, and in writing):
  - The textbook
  - Lecture slides on the course website
  - Office hours
- The best way to get help is by attending office hours!
Grading

- Pop quizzes: 5%
- Homework: 30%
- Two midterms: 35%
- Final exam: 30%

Check the syllabus for more details!
Topics Covered

- Introduce traditional topics from “theoretical” computer science
- Practical applications:
  - Formal proofs don’t need to be intimidating!
  - Advanced text processing (parsers and regular expressions)
  - Understand the limitations of computing — “computability” and “tractability”