NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
CS 495-03
FALL 2002
SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE: COMPILERS

4 credits
Monday Wednesday Thursday Friday 1:00–1:50 P.M.
Monday 26 August 2002 through Friday 6 December 2002, except Monday 2 September 2002, Friday 11 October 2002, Friday 1 November 2002, and Wednesday 27 November 2002 through Friday 29 November 2002
"Final Exam": Tuesday 10 December 2002 12:00–1:50 P.M.
2911 West Science
Instructor: Andy Poe, 1129 New Science Facility, 227-1598

A compiler is a program that translates one computer language to another. In this course, we will learn how compilers work, what makes some languages easier to compile than others, and different approaches to compiler design. There will be some written homework assignments but this will be a project-oriented course: in the course of a semester, you will write a compiler for a language that we will invent in class. You will learn special tools that exist to make this much easier than it sounds.

Texts: *Compilers: Principles, Techniques, and Tools*. Alfred V. Aho, Ravi Sethi, Jeffrey D. Ullman.
Lex & Yacc, Second/Update Edition. John R. Levine, Tony Mason, Doug Brown.

These books are available at the University Center Bookstore, and if you are ABSOLUTELY INSANE, that is where you will buy them. The most important of the two books is the second one, *Lex & Yacc*. bookpool.com presently offers a 38% discount on that book. The first book is more expensive anyway, and bookpool offers an 11% discount. We will be using this book, too, but not as much as the second one, so if you can't afford both, get the second one and make arrangements to share the first one.

Courseload: There will be no exams. Your grade will be based entirely on assignments, mostly programming but a few written ones as well. Timely submissions will be strictly enforced in this class. If you fall behind in a course like this, you're DEAD! The final exam time listed above is for last-minute work that may or may not need to be done.

It's a lot of work, but it's good stuff. Ideally, when this course is over, you will approach programming in a whole new light!

Office Hours: My office hours will be from 2:00 P.M.–4:50 P.M. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Appointments need to be made to see me outside these times.

Disability: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office at 1104 University Center (227-1737). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.