

Extra Credit Project

Many students have interests outside of class. Sometimes those interests have engineering aspects, in particular aspects that can be understood using mechanics of solids (the subjects of 24-261 and 24-262).

Students are invited to propose a project in which they would study some artifact or aspect of life in which they have a particular interest and which features interesting mechanics. The idea would be, for example, to use mechanics to analyze some essential aspect of the functioning of the artifact or to analyze any limits that mechanics might place on the artifact or the use of the artifact.

This activity is strictly voluntary. There would be a maximum of 3 points (of the 100 points in the course) extra credit for completing this project. The actual amount of credit would depend on the complexity of the problem studied and on the thoroughness and quality of the analysis.

Students who are interested in doing such a project should submit a brief proposal (1-2 pages) describing the situation or artifact they would study, and the aspects that they would specifically analyze. The proposal is due on March 16 and should be submitted to Professor Steif by email (steif@andrew.cmu.edu). Students will be notified if their proposed activity is acceptable by March 24. If they wish to explore an idea preliminarily, students are welcome to discuss their proposed idea with Professor Steif prior to March 16.

The ultimate credit for the project will be based on a report that is to be submitted to Professor Steif by 5:00 PM on May 4.