Extra credit is designed to have little (but some) impact on your grade whether you do it or not. Not doing extra credit will not lower your grade — regardless of how many other students attempt it.

Extra credit is designed to be challenging and an opportunity for people with extra time to work on something optional.

Therefore:

- Expect an extra-credit problem to be worth much less than it should be based on how difficult it is. For example, if a homework is graded out of 100 points, the extra credit may be worth a maximum of 4 points with no chance for partial credit.

- You should not attempt the extra credit until you have finished the rest of an assignment. The graders will ignore extra-credit problems on homeworks that are not at least “almost perfect” otherwise.

This notion of “extra credit” has little connection with the definition of the English words “extra” and “credit,” but the phrase “extra credit” is customary.