• Extra credit is designed to have little (but some) impact on your grade whether you do it or not.

• Extra credit is designed to be challenging and an opportunity to work on something optional. In particular, it helps address that some students in the class are “really interested in the field” while other students are “really unlikely to take another programming-languages course.”

Therefore:

• Expect an extra-credit problem to be “worth” much less than it should be based on its difficulty. For example, if a homework is graded out of 25 points, the extra credit may be worth 1 point.

• You should not attempt the extra credit until you have finished the rest of an assignment.

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.