MECH 408—Spring 2007
Spring Semester Report Grading Rubric

Paper section	Y	N	Max pts	Actua
Abstract Provides a concise summary of all the major sections and conclusions of the report Comments:			8	
Introduction/Background/Problem Definition Defines clearly and explains the significance of the problem the project tackles				
Discusses historical approaches to tackling the problem and current state of the art (w/references)				
Outlines requirements for better solution based on historical background. Quantifies specifications when possible				
States specific project goals; summarizes design objective and strategy			20	
Comments:				
Methods/Project Plan Describes steps taken to implement project (including constraints that impacted strategy and steps taken to address them)				
Describes methods used to design system, relating choices taken to discussed in introduction				
Describes methods used to validate completed systems and expected results			15	
Comments:				

Final Design Detail			Max pts	Actual
Provides overview of whole design and how subcomponents (if applicable) relate to and interact within the design.				
Fully describes chosen solution and its components, comparing it to proposed and rejected solutions. Demonstrates reasoning (analytical and/or experimental) that led to design choice and selection.			24	
Provides data to validate design choices and fully discusses the implications of these results				
Comments:				

Conclusion				
Clearly describes the current status of the project				
Describes future plans/recommendations for work				
Comments:			6	

Report-wide Elements	Y	N	Max pts	Actua
Figure usage				
Selects appropriate figures or tables to summarize or highlight key data or aspects of the design				
Figures are titled, labeled (including units), captioned, and referenced in text			6	
Comments:				
References				
Consults a variety of high quality (peer-reviewed) sources				
Organizes references into a scientifically appropriate bibliography				
Chooses a scientifically appropriate citation method and adequately references material in the report			6	
Comments:				

Quality of project choice, writing, and report structure Chooses/defines unique and/or challenging project					
Organizes and structures paper to convey argument logically (considers audience needs, uses forecasting statements, avoids chronological organization, selects descriptive subheads to break content into sections and orient reader)			15	
Demonstrates professional command of basic writing mechanics (grammar, syntax, word choice, etc.)				
Comments:				
TOTAL (OVERALL GRADE)			100	