

DeWitt Middle School TA Program

For more information, contact Prof. Michel Louge, MYL3@cornell.edu

The project basically consists of serving as a Teaching Assistant (TA) for Technology Education at DeWitt (8th grade). In Technology Education, students learn various technological and design skills through practical projects. The class resembles MAE 2250, but at an 8th grade level

You can earn MAE 4980 or MAE 4291 credit for becoming a DeWitt TA. Typically, you have to teach 3 hours per week at DeWitt to earn 1 credit hour. Total credit is flexible. The schedule is also flexible -- to be arranged with the DeWitt teachers, Mr. Bob Walters and Mr. David Buchner. M&AE 4980 credits can often be used in "advisor-approved elective" slots in MAE - ask your advisor. M&AE 4980 cannot be used in major-approved elective slots such as technical elective or towards Major Approved Electives I and II.

Students may satisfy the MAE senior design elective by enrolling in 2 or 3 credits in M&AE 4980 and the one-credit corresponding M&AE 4291 section. However, in order to get MAE 4291 credit, students must find a MAE faculty sponsor for the project. Prof. Michel Louge is one prospective sponsor - you may e-mail him at MYL3@cornell.edu with a description of your design project; if he agrees, you may enroll in MAE 4291 under his supervision.

The DeWitt teachers will work out a schedule with you, so that you can satisfy the requirements of the MAE 4980 or MAE 4291 project. They will be flexible in accommodating your schedule. We have done this before -- it is definitely possible.

Your role as a TA: assist DeWitt students in the execution of their projects, advise the teachers, carry out design projects as appropriate, learn new techniques with the intention of teaching these to the DeWitt students, act as a role model.

Sample design project. Here is an example from a past project description: Develop and build a working model of a small solar vehicle using a commercially available kit. Design and build the transmission using available parts. Develop a lesson for the student. Get the students excited. Monitor their progress in the Solar Vehicle Challenge.

M.E. senior design projects must be 3 credits or more to be used as a Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Elective. For 4980 credit, a brief final report is required on the experience at DeWitt. The report should mention what the TAs have accomplished and offer possible suggestions for the future. The report will be e-mailed to MYL3@cornell.edu. The DeWitt teachers will recommend a final grade for each participant. For 4291 credit, you must write a design report, as described in the MAE undergraduate programs website.

This report will be graded by the faculty sponsor, with input from the DeWitt teachers. You must contact Mr. Walters directly to set up an interview after you have been approved to join this program. If contacting him by e-mail, it is most efficient if you list all your possible time blocks during the next few weeks. At the interview, please bring your MAE 2250 notebook, if you still have it available. (If you are not an MAE student, that's all right). You can also bring material that you would deem pertinent to the interview.

Location and Contact Information:

DeWitt Middle School

560 Warren Rd.

Ithaca, NY 14850

(607)257-2527

fax 607-266-3502

e-mail bwalters@twcny.rr.com

Transportation: TCAT bus 31, 32, or 37. Schedules are available at

<http://tcat.nextinsight.com/allroutes.php>