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Syllabus

AGRI 1600: Introduction to Agri-
Food Systems (Winter 2023)



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COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number:	Introduction to Agri-Food Systems (AGRI 1600)
Number of Credit Hours	3
Class Times & Days of the Week	Lectures are offered from 8:30-9:45am, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Labs are offered from 2:30-5:15pm, Monday through Friday.
Pre-Requisites:	None

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Name & Preferred Form of Address:	Marla Riekman (please refer to me as Marla) Instructor
Office Hours or Availability:	Students with questions or suggestions are strongly encouraged to ask questions during or immediately after the regular lecture periods. I will also be available for individual appointments, as requested. Please contact me via email and we will mutually agree on an appointment time.
Office Phone No.	204-918-8440 (cell)
Email:	marla.riekman@umanitoba.ca My preference is that you contact me by email, but I will also respond to text messages. When emailing, please identify the course number and/or lab section in the subject line so I know which class or lab section you are referring to. When texting, please also identify yourself by name so I know who I am corresponding with!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

U of M Course Calendar Description

This course explores agricultural production systems with special focus on the Canadian Prairies. Students will develop scholarly, social, communication and professional skills that will enable them to be successful in the application of technical knowledge to food production challenges.

General Course Description

This course is an introductory agriculture course that serves as a foundation for more intense study in agriculture. Students entering the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences are required to take this course as it serves as a pre-requisite for PLNT 2500 (Crop Production), ANSC 2500 (Animal Production). In addition, this course is of interest to students that wish to explore the importance of agriculture in their lives.

COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to introduce students to crop and livestock production systems in Manitoba and around the world. By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Identify the role of agriculture in the world and be able to describe basic agricultural systems.
- Explain scientific concepts of agricultural production systems situated within a broad understanding of food systems.
- Demonstrate foundational knowledge related to the land resource, and crop and animal production systems, with special focus on the Canadian Prairies.
- Identify Indigenous perspectives that are relevant to agricultural practices and food production; including Indigenous knowledge, land tenure, and treaties.
- Apply critical thinking skills to evaluate knowledge in agricultural sciences to contribute to the betterment of society.
- Evaluate information to solve emerging problems and challenges in food production systems on a local, national, and global scale.
- Demonstrate lifelong learning skills by accessing knowledge and skills to keep abreast in agricultural sciences; demonstrate research and information literacy skills; engage in reflective practice; adapt to change.
- Work effectively and respectfully in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams to successfully accomplish a purpose.
- Be aware of the requirements for achieving appropriate professional designations, and work in inter-professional environments including our ethical and professional responsibilities.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

Students are also expected to regularly access the notices and class material posted on the UMLearn website for this course. There is no required textbook for this course, but you can find a list of Recommended Readings in the Content section for this course on UMLearn.

Summary lecture slides and reference material will be posted on UMLearn. For more information about accessing UMLearn, go to:

<https://umanitoba.ca/centre-advancement-teaching-learning/technologies/umlearn>

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Expectations for this course:

- I will treat you with respect and would appreciate the same courtesy in return. University policy on respectful work and learning environments can be found here: <https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents/governing-documents-university-community#respectful-work-and-learning-environment-rwle>
- I expect you to participate in lectures from 8:30-9:45 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and your selected weekly lab session from 2:30-5:15, Monday to Friday. This format will facilitate a sustainable pace for learning, plus discussion of students' questions and assisted work during the lab periods.
- I expect you to actively engage in classroom activities, such as answering questions and engaging in small group discussions.
- I expect you to be an active member of your assigned lab group to complete weekly assignments.
- You can expect me to respond to questions asked in class, either within the lecture that they were asked, or at the beginning of the next lecture.
- You can also expect me to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them, from Monday to Friday, generally after 4:30pm. I may respond to emails over the weekend, but please don't expect an immediate response if emailing on the weekend!

Class Communication:

- You are required to obtain and use your University of Manitoba email account for all communication between yourself and the university.
- All communication must comply with the Electronic Communication with Student Policy: <https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents/governing-documents-university-community#electronic-communication-with-students>

Student Accessibility Services:

The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. [Students Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) offers academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation.

Student Accessibility Services
520 University Centre
Phone: (204) 474-7423
Email: Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Recording of Lectures:

No audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission from Marla Riekman. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research.

Copyright:

Please respect copyright. We will use copyrighted content in this course. I have ensured that the content I use is appropriately acknowledged and is copied in accordance with copyright laws and university guidelines. Copyrighted works, including those created by me, are made available for private study and research and must not be distributed in any format without permission. Do not upload copyrighted works to a learning management system (such as UM Learn), or any website, unless an exception to the *Copyright Act* applies or written permission has been confirmed. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/> or contact um_copyright@umanitoba.ca.

This material is copyrighted by the University of Manitoba, 2023. No audio or video recording of this material, lectures, or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission of the University of Manitoba. Course materials (both paper and digital) are for the participant's private study and research, and must not be shared. Violation of these and other Academic Integrity principles, will lead to serious disciplinary action.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

The lecture and lab schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students but such changes are subject to [Section 2.8 of ROASS](#).

Date	Lecture Topic	Number of Lectures
Jan 10	Course Introduction Review course syllabus, class delivery, assessments	
Jan 10-19	Introduction to Agriculture This section will discuss the origins of agriculture and the position of Manitoba and Canada in global agriculture. Factors that influence crop and livestock production will be introduced.	4
Jan 24-Feb 2	The Living Land This section will deal with the importance of soil as a natural resource and properties of the soil that makes it a productive medium for growing plants. We will introduce physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil and how these are related to the proper management of soil.	4
Feb 7-16	Crops: Food from the Sun This section will review the crop production cycle and deals with crop production practices and principles as they relate to major crop types. Key factors that influence decision making processes and their influence on the cropping system will be introduced.	4
Feb 28-Mar 9	Animals: Concentrators of Protein This section will review different types of livestock production and the advantages of animal agriculture. Issues of animal ethics and welfare will be discussed.	4
Mar 14-23	The Integrated Agroecosystem Approach This section will look at the integration of crop and livestock systems within the agricultural ecosystem. The environmental impacts of agriculture and conservation practices will be discussed.	4
Mar 28-Apr 6	Farming for Our Future This section will introduce new technologies and opportunities in agriculture to improve food production. Ethics and professionalism will also be discussed.	4
Apr 11	Wrap-up and Final Exam Prep	1

LAB SCHEDULE

Lab attendance is required for this course. It is important that you attend the lab section for which you are registered. Under exceptional circumstances (ex: illness, medical appointments, etc) that prevent you from attending your regular lab section, you may contact the TA for another lab section to request permission to attend an alternate section. This permission will not be granted on a regular basis. Also let the lab TA for your usual lab section know if you have made alternative arrangements. Attendance is taken in lab each week. If you are sick or you know that you are going to be away, it is courteous to let your lab TA know that you will be missing lab in person or by email.

Week	Lab Topic
Jan 16-20	Lab 1: Academic Integrity <i>Guest Lecturer: Justin Bouchard</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete an online academic integrity tutorial (will be available on UMLearn) prior to attending this lab, as well as a mandatory Academic Integrity quiz.
Jan 23-27	Lab 2: Libraries Tutorial <i>Guest Lecturer: Ryan Schultz</i>
Jan 30 - Feb 3	Lab 3: Agriculture Capability and Soil Management
Feb 6-10	Lab 4: Busting Myths about Crop Production
Feb 13-17	Lab 5: The Debates - Individual Preparation
Feb 27 - Mar 3	<i>No lab - Lab 5 assignments due</i>
Mar 13-17	Lab 6: The Debates - Group Preparation
Mar 20-25	Lab 7: Debates and Discussion, Part 1
Mar 27-31	Lab 8: Debates and Discussion, Part 2

Voluntary Withdrawal

The last day to drop the class and receive 100% refund is January 20, 2023. The last day to withdraw with no refund (VW) is March 22, 2023. Students who do not drop the course by March 22, 2023 will be assigned a final grade. Withdrawn courses will be recorded on your official transcript. Please refer to the [Registrar's Office](#) web page for more information. You can consult with me or a faculty student advisor if you are concerned about your progress in the course in advance of the withdrawal deadline.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

To pass this course you will need to: 1) complete both the midterm and the final exam, 2) complete the online tutorial and quiz on academic integrity, and 3) obtain a passing grade on the lab portion of the course. The results of the midterm will be given to students prior to the voluntary withdrawal date.

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance in the following assessments:

Section Quizzes	35%
Lab Assignments	25%
Field Trip Assignment	5%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	5%

Each section quiz will be available for completion over a three day period beginning the Monday after each lecture section is completed. You will have up to 35 minutes from the time the quiz is started to complete it. You will be given up to three attempts to write the section quiz; however, with each additional attempt, your final grade will be reduced by 10 percentage points (i.e. on your first attempt, the maximum grade you can obtain is 100%, on your second attempt the maximum grade you can obtain is 90% and on your third attempt the maximum grade you can obtain is 80%). For example, if you got 85% of the questions correct on your second attempt at a quiz, your final grade would be reduced to 75%, and if it was your third attempt, your final grade would be reduced to 65%. The mark from your last quiz attempt will be applied to your final grade. Questions on the quiz will be randomly

selected from a quiz bank; therefore, each quiz will be different from the other. Section quizzes are closed book; therefore, no course notes are allowed.

Lab assignments will be a mixture of individual and group work. The final group assignment in the lab will be a debate and discussion where your group will debate on an assigned topic. Your individual grade for the group assignment will be assessed based on your group's performance during the debate, as well as a peer assessment of your contributions to the group while preparing for the debate.

The field trip assignment will be completed over the course of a one-day field trip. The field trips are will be held on three separate Saturdays, exact dates TBD. You will only have to attend one of the three scheduled field trips. More information on the field trips will be provided in class.

Participation marks will be given based on your activity during lecture sessions. You will be required to download the iClicker app (<https://news.umanitoba.ca/iclicker-reef-a-new-and-free-mobile-app-for-students/>) to your phone or computer and register an account in order to answer questions to obtain participation marks. You will need to use your UofM student email account to register for your iClicker account.

The final exam will be written over a 2-hour period, as scheduled by the University. More information on the style of exam will be given during the course lectures leading up to the final.

Grading

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	95-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	86-94	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	80-85	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	72-79	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-71	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	60-64	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-59	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 50		0

Referencing Style

Many different referencing styles are used within the different scientific disciplines studied within the field of agriculture. For this course, you will be expected to use the Council of Science Editors (CSE) style. This involves using both a reference list and in-text citation. A CSE style guide is available on UMLearn and will be reviewed during the library lab sessions. If you have questions about referencing or using style for referencing you can consult the Agriculture Librarian, your lab TA, or your course instructor.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses.

- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
- Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and
- Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

Late Assignments: Assignments must be submitted through UMLearn Assignment Drop Boxes on the date due. A 10% reduction in grade will be applied for every 24-hour period an assignment is late (unless an extension has been granted).

Missed Assignments: Unexcused missed assignments will be given a grade of zero. Where assignments are missed due to illness (see above), evidence of death in the family, or other circumstances that are beyond the control of the student, the student may be given the following options: 1) complete the assignment and receive the late assignment penalty as described above, 2) establish a new due date with the instructor and complete the assignment without penalty when handed in by the new due date, or 3) the final grade will be determined by increasing the value of the final exam by the amount that would have been allocated to the missed assignment. Option three will only be available under extreme circumstances.

Missed Quizzes: Unexcused missed quizzes will be given a grade of zero. Where a quiz is missed due to illness, evidence of death in the family, or other circumstances that are beyond the control of the student, the student may be given the following options: 1) re-schedule a date for the quiz with the instructor and complete the quiz at that time (the instructor has the option to set a different quiz), or 2) the final grade will be determined by increasing the value of the final exam by the amount that would have been allocated to the missed quiz. If the final exam is missed and an appropriate excuse has been provided, procedures outlined in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar for deferral will be followed.

Academic Integrity

Every student in the course must complete a tutorial and quiz on academic integrity. This tutorial and quiz will be discussed in lab the week of January 16, 2023. The tutorial and quiz will be accessed through your lab section on UMLearn website.

Plagiarism or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests or academic work is subject to serious academic penalty. Cheating in examinations or tests may take the form of copying from another student or bringing unauthorized materials into the exam room. Exam cheating can also include exam impersonation. A student found guilty of contributing to cheating in examinations or term assignments is also subject to serious academic penalty. Referencing and in-text citation expectations for this course will be reviewed in the Library lab session. Expectations for academic integrity, appropriate collaboration on assignments, and the consequences and process for dealing with cases within the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences will be reviewed during the Academic Integrity and Professionalism lab session.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam impersonation and duplicate submission. See the section on Academic Integrity in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Each student in this course is expected to compete their

coursework and programs of study with integrity by making a commitment to the six fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. <http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity>

Always remember to reference the work of others that you have used. Also be advised that you are required to complete your assignments independently unless otherwise specified. If you are encouraged to work in a team, ensure that your project is completed with integrity. You must also do your own work during exams. Plagiarism, duplicate submission, cheating on quizzes, tests, and exams, inappropriate collaboration, academic fraud, and personation are in violation of the Student Discipline Bylaw and will lead to the serious [disciplinary action](#). Visit the [Academic Calendar](#), [Student Advocacy](#), and [Academic Integrity](#) web pages for more information and support.

LEARNER SUPPORT

Additional information on University support services and University Policies for students are available on the UMLearn course website and on the University of Manitoba website. Here are some resources and policies the University of Manitoba would like you to be aware of:

Writing and Learning Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers writing and learning supports to help you throughout your academic program. These supports are offered online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Make an appointment with an ALC writing tutor who can give you feedback at any stage of the writing process, whether you are just beginning to work on a written assignment or already have a draft. The ALC also has an English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist available to work with students on improving their English-language academic writing skills.

Consult an ALC learning specialist or attend an academic skills workshop to improve your time management, learning strategies and test-taking strategies. Get support in select courses by making an appointment with an ALC content tutor. The ALC also offers peer-facilitated study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In SI study groups, students ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

In addition to one-to-one and group sessions, you can also find writing and study tip sheets and videos on the ALC website.

Academic Learning Centre services are free for U of M students. For more information, please visit the Academic Learning Centre website at: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>

Contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or emailing academic_learning@umanitoba.ca. Bannatyne students can contact the Bannatyne Student Services office at 204-272-3190.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)

Research begins at [UM Libraries](#). [Learn at the Libraries](#) is a great place to start, with information for students on academic writing, how to search the library, evaluating resources, and writing citations. As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about locating appropriate resources or managing citations, and will address any other concerns you may have regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you online. When working remotely, students can also receive help online through [Ask Us!](#) chat. For further detail about the libraries' services and collections, [visit the Libraries' web site](#).

For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.

Student Counselling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. *Student Counselling Centre:*

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-health-and-wellness/student-counselling-centre-scc>

474 UMSU University Centre or S211 Medical Services Building
(204) 474-8592

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

520 UMSU University Centre
(204) 474-7423 (Student Support Intake Assistant)

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. Note that UHS has reopened the clinic in University Centre as of August 26, 2022.

University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>
(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

Health and Wellness

Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are seeking information on health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, or sexual violence. You can also access peer support from a *Healthy U* peer health educator.

Health and Wellness Educator

<https://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome-about.html>

healthandwellness@umanitoba.ca

469 UMSU University Centre

(204) 295-9032

Sexual Violence Resource Centre

Contact SVRC if you have experienced sexual violence or are seeking information about how to help somebody else. SVRC provides inclusive, survivor-centred, trauma-informed services, such as consultation, referrals, safety planning, and a range of on-site supports, including counselling by Klinik.

Sexual Violence Resource Centre

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/sexual-violence-support-and-education>

svrc@umanitoba.ca

537 UMSU University Centre

(204) 474-6562 (Sexual Violence Intake and Triage Specialist)

Student Services at Bannatyne Campus

Contact SS@BC to access a full range of resources and supports for learners at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Services are provided through a one-stop hub that includes a range of supports for personal and academic success, including counselling, mental health consultation, and spiritual care.

Student Services at Bannatyne Campus

<https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-services-bannatyne-campus>

bcss@umanitoba.ca

S211 Medical Services Building

(204) 272-3190 (Intake and Triage Specialist)

Copyright:

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's *Copyright Act*. Staff and students play a key role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

University and Unit policies, procedures, and supplemental information available on-line:

Your rights and responsibilities

As a student of the University of Manitoba you have rights and responsibilities. It is important for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school.

The [Academic Calendar](#) is one important source of information. View the sections *University Policies*

and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final **grade appeals**. Note that you have the right to access your final examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically read the **Academic Integrity** regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the **Student Academic Misconduct** procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect and you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate respectful manner. Policies governing behavior include the:
Respectful Work and Learning Environment
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html
Student Discipline
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html
and,
Violent or Threatening Behaviour
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html
- If you experience **Sexual Assault** or know a member of the University community who has, it is important to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting. The **Sexual Assault** policy may be found at: http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>
- For information about rights and responsibilities regarding **Intellectual Property** view the policy: https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/235.html
- For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school web site <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>
- Contact an **Academic Advisor** within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca