ABIZ 4260 Price Analysis  
Winter 2020  

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:15 pm, 107 Animal Science Building  
Class web page: www.umanitoba.ca/umlearn  

Instructor  
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15 am - 3:30 pm or by appointment  

Course Description  
Theory and methods of price analysis, commodity markets and the demand and supply factors that underpin seasonal, cyclical and secular changes in commodity prices. The course will help students develop the skills to properly understand and analyze prices in commodity markets.  

Course Topics  
1. Demand and supply and price determination  
2. Market structures and price determination  
3. Marketing margins  
4. Spatial price relationships  
5. Price variations through time  
6. Farm – nonfarm price relationships  
7. Mechanisms for discovering prices  

Course Objectives  
By the end of this course students should be able to:  
• Have a thorough understanding of the forces that affect prices in commodity markets.  
• Apply economic theory and critical thinking to evaluate and solve real-world problems in commodity price analysis.  
• Be able to support their thoughts using economic principles and statistics.  
• Appreciate the importance and complexity of price analysis in commodity markets.  

Course website  
Class material will be posted on UM Learn (www.umanitoba.ca/umlearn). The page provides announcements, information about the course, handouts, grades, and other pertinent information. I strongly recommend you to check the course web site frequently during the semester, especially for announcements prior to class. If you have trouble logging into UM Learn please contact the Information Services & Technology (IST) Service Desk located in 123 Fletcher Argue, by phone at (204) 474-8600, or by e-mail at servicedesk@umanitoba.ca.
Textbook
Material covered in class will be based on: Tomek, W. G., and H. M. Kaiser. Agricultural Product Prices, 5th Edition, Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York, USA, 2014. The book is available in the campus bookstore (140 University Centre) and it will be on reserve in the William R. Newman Library—Agriculture (236 Agriculture Building). Other readings will be provided during the term as needed.

Course Format and Requirements
This class will meet for two instructor-guided lectures per week. Teaching methods such as individual and group in-class discussion and individual in-class assignments will be used. To pass the course students are expected to complete the in-class portion as well as homework assignments, a midterm, and a final exam.

Homework Assignments. Due dates will be determined during the term. Homework assignments may be submitted using UM Learn and are due at 11:59 pm on the due date. You may discuss course material with your classmates outside of class but you must submit a separate assignment which must be entirely your own. Late or missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

Exams. There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will be halfway through the semester. The final exam will be comprehensive and will take place during the final exam period. Students won’t be allowed to write the final exam at a time other than that prescribed by the University.

Grading
In-class assignments 15%
Homework assignments 25%
Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 30%

Make-Up Policy
There will be NO make-up assignments/exams. Legitimate absences that are appropriately documented will be considered on a case by case basis. Failure to write a scheduled in-class exam without valid documentation will result in a grade of zero. Late or missed homework assignments will also receive a grade of zero.

Academic Integrity
All University of Manitoba guidelines for academic honesty apply in this class. Students are expected to do their own assignments and exams. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating in assignments, examinations or term tests is subject to serious academic penalty. A student found guilty of contributing to cheating in examinations or term assignments is also subject to serious academic penalty (see the University of Manitoba’s General Calendar for further details).
Accommodations for students with disabilities

I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the term, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS - http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility) to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations. You can contact the SAS office in person at 520 University Centre, by phone at (204) 474-7423, or by email at student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca.

ROASS Schedule A

Schedule A of the Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regards to Students (ROASS) provides information on various University policies and resources that are available for students. Schedule A is posted on the course website. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this document.

Important dates

- January 20: Last day to register
- February 13: Midterm Exam
- February 17: Louis Riel Day
- February 18-21: Winter Term Break
- March 18: Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal
- April 7: Last day of classes
- April 10: Good Friday
- April 13-25: Final Exam period