



University of Manitoba
Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

AGRI4100

Current Issues in Agricultural Systems

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COURSE DETAIL

Course Title & Number: AGRI 4100 – Current Issues in Agricultural Systems

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Class Times & Days of Week: Thursday 2:30-5:20 pm

Location: Online until February 2022 - P

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name: Kim Ominski

Office Location: Room 231 Animal Science Building – teaching remotely from January – February 2022

Office Hours or Availability: E-mail to arrange a mutually agreeable meeting. In office from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Thursday

Email: Kim.Ominski@umanitoba.ca
All email communication must conform to the [Communicating with Students](#) university policy.

Contact: (204) 474-9468. You are welcome to contact me by email at any time.

Course Description

Through a combination of lectures and independent group learning activities, students will develop an appreciation for the scope and complexities of current issues facing the agricultural industry. This includes integration of knowledge of current issues in agricultural systems including land, plant, and animal systems, coupled to the food and nutrition needs of society. Emphasis on ethics, equity, economics, and professional approaches to challenges in food systems. Course delivery also includes in-class discussions, individual/group presentations, and invited talks from industry.

Course Goals

General Course Objective:

- Enable students to develop the skills to address current and future issues facing the agricultural industry
- Further develop critical thinking and communication skills

Specific Course Objectives:

- Develop an appreciation for the scope and complexities of issues facing the agricultural industry
- Further develop skills in acquiring information critical to understanding issues associated with the production of food products
- Integrate knowledge accumulated in the Agribusiness, Agriculture or Agroecology degree programs and apply that knowledge to address real-world challenges.
- Further develop critical thinking skills
- Work effectively in a group dynamic
- Develop life skills critical to career development
- Improve oral and written communication skills

These objectives will be met through a combination of lectures, independent study and group projects. Students will be required to attend class, collect, evaluate and synthesize information for presentation in both oral and written formats.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Think critically about a range of topics in agriculture and food sciences.
- Discuss concerns and issues about agriculture in a professional manner.
- Identify appropriate methods of knowledge transfer for target audience groups.
- Communicate information through a variety of methods.
- Feel prepared for future job opportunities through the development of resume building and interview skills.

Using Copyrighted Material

Please respect copyright. For more information, see the University's Copyright Office website at <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright/>.

Class Lectures

Classes will be comprised of presentations and class discussions, therefore attendance is essential. Presentation material will be posted on UMLearn with permission of guest speakers and are for the participant's private study and research only.

Textbook, Readings, Materials

Required textbook – none required.

Course Technology

The course will be delivered via Zoom until February 26. Thereafter, we may move to a blended format if permitted according to UM policies and procedures. In the event that I am required to isolate at any time from February 26 onward, we will pivot to online instruction mode during this short isolation period. Course material and communication will occur primarily using UMLearn. Please become familiar with it and contact me if you have any questions.

Class Communication

The University requires all students to activate an official University email account. For full details of the Electronic Communication with Students please visit:

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/electronic_communication_with_students_policy.html

Please note that all communication between myself and you as a student must comply with this policy. You are required to obtain and use your U of M email account for all communication between yourself and the university.

Expectations: I Expect You To

- Attend class regularly.
- Participate regularly in class with your camera.
- Act with respect to your classmates, instructor and any invited guests. See Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy. This includes no texting or social media during class.
- Contact me if you are unclear on a topic, assignment or expectations
- Contact me if you there is an error in grading.
- Complete all assignments.
 - (i) Group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty;
 - (ii) Group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity.
 - (iii) All work is to be completed independently unless otherwise specified.

Expectations: You Can Expect Me To

- Arrive before class and arrange appointments to answer any questions you may have.

- Be respectful to all students and invited speakers.
- Explain and provide examples of the topics listed below in the class schedule.
- Make sufficient time outside of class to meet with students and make sure course material is clear.
- Answer, or find answers to any questions you may have related to class material.
- Provide an unbiased grading scheme.
- Return all graded assignments and exams within 2 weeks of the due date.
- Help you succeed in AGRI4100 and your degree.

Academic Integrity:

Schedule "A" Policies and Resources

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism, duplicate submission, cheating on assignments, 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.

Student Support Services

Student Accessibility Services

If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for 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 <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

520 University Centre

204 474 7423

Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

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:*

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

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 due to fire displacement, UHS is unable to provide in-person medical care on the Fort Garry Campus until October, 2020.

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>

britt.harvey@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 Clinic.

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)

Class Schedule

Throughout the term, students will be assigned as hosts for the afternoon. This will include introducing and thanking the guest speaker, as well as facilitating the discussion period.

2022 CLASS SCHEDULE	
Class 1 January 27	<u>In-Class Discussion:</u>
Identifying issues in the agricultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course introduction/Review course syllabus - Individual introductions and completion of student profiles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of issues in the agricultural industry - Discussion regarding the issues facing the agricultural industry <p>Organization of students into groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative projects - Hosting/facilitating discussions with guest speakers <p>Lecture - Effective Extension Presentations – Discussion regarding techniques for developing an effective extension presentation</p> <p>Preparation: Issue Identification Assignment – February 3 Research and select topics/develop outline for extension presentation – February 10</p>
Class 2 February 3 Knowledge translation, communication and extension	<p><u>Due today:</u> Issue Identification Assignment</p> <p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> Guest speaker: Crystal Jorgensen, Communications, FAFS</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Topics and outline for extension presentation – February 10</p>
Class 3 February 10 Water and wetland management	<p><u>Due today:</u> Topics and outline for extension presentation</p> <p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speaker:</u> Pascal Badou, Research Scientist, Ducks Unlimited</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Extension talks – February 25, March 4 Fact Sheets – March 11</p>
Class 4 February 17 Professionalism Resumes and interview Skills – bring resumes	<p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speaker:</u> Kerensa Mamchuk, Registrar, Manitoba Institute of Agrologists</p> <p><u>Guest speaker:</u> Gail Eckert, Summit Research Group</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Extension talks – March 3, March 10</p>

	Fact Sheets – March 17
February 24	No class
Class 5 March 3	<p><u>Due today:</u> Extension presentations and discussions</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Extension talks – March 10 Fact Sheets – March 17</p>
Class 6 March 10	<p><u>Due today:</u> Extension presentations and discussions</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Fact Sheets – March 17</p>
Class 7 March 17	<p><u>Due today:</u> Extension Factsheets</p>
Healthy food and agricultural systems	<p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speaker:</u> Dr. Joyce Slater, Food and Human Nutritional Sciences</p> <p><u>Preparation:</u> Group Presentations – April 14, 21</p>
Class 8 March 24	<p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speaker:</u> Emily McAuley, Indigenous Science Liaison Office, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</p>
Indigenous perspectives	<p><u>Preparation:</u> Group Presentations – April 14, 21</p>
Class 9 March 31	<p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speakers:</u> Dr. Martin Scanlon, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences; Scott Beaton, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Cooperation, Organic Producer</p>
Greetings from the Dean/Organic production systems	<p><u>Preparation:</u> Group Presentations – April 14, 21</p>
Class 9 April 7	<p><u>In-Class Discussion:</u> <u>Guest speaker:</u> Kim McConnell, founder and former CEO of AdFarm</p>
Marketing in the agricultural sector	<p><u>Preparation:</u> Final Group Presentations</p>

Class 10 April 10	<u>Due today:</u> Final Group Presentations
Class 11 April 17	<u>Due today:</u> Final Group Presentations Written assignments submitted on April 25, 2022

Course Evaluation Methods

A variety of evaluation methods will be used to give all types of learners an opportunity to excel.

Course Evaluation	
<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Grade</i>
Individual Assignments	45%
Issue Identification	15%
Extension Assignment – Oral	15%
Extension Assignment – Infographic, factsheet	15%
Group Assignments	35%
Group Project – Oral	15%
Group Project – Written	20%
Class Participation	20%
Including weekly discussions, question periods during stakeholder and student presentations, hosting guest speakers	

Description of Participation Grades

- 1) Weekly responses and questions to the instructor – 5%
 - a) After each class students will be expected to submit a question, revelation, or comment on the topic of that lecture. Submissions must be sent before midnight, and 5 minutes will be allotted at the end of each class to submit.
- 2) Team work in collaborative assignments– 5%
 - a) Peer evaluation
- 3) Participate in weekly lectures – 10%

Description of Assignments:

Issue Identification: 15% (Due February 3)

Each student will be responsible for contacting 3 people, 1 from each of the following categories:

- **Academia:** professor, high school teacher, grade school teacher
- **Livestock Industry:** commodity associations, feed companies, etc.

- **General public** (not affiliated with the industry): consumers, neighbors, etc.

For each category, ask the person a question that will assess what they perceive to be the most important issue with respect to the production of foods of animal origin AND why they feel this is the most important issue. For the purposes of this assignment, you will need to:

1. Compose the question that you will ask each of your interviewees
2. Identify the category to which each person belongs and a general overview of their relationship to the category
3. Summarize the results of your interview in a two-page report (single spaced)

Extension Presentation: 15% (Due March 3 and 10)

Each student will present a 10-minute “Extension-type” oral presentation on their chosen topic. Students will then be required to accept questions from the audience during a five-minute open question period.

Extension Factsheet/infographic: 15%: (Due March 17)

One extension topic per person to be identified. Students will be expected to identify target audience and key messages and must use and provide 3-5 references. Grading rubric to be provided in class.

Group Project: 35% (April 14, 21 – presentation (15%), April 25 – written assignment (20%))

Final Collaborative Project and Presentation: 35% (20% group presentation, 15% individual report)

Group collaboration (5% solution outline and topic development, 15% presentation):

Following the issues identification assignment, students will be placed into groups and share their findings from interviews. Groups will be made up of students from different backgrounds and disciplines. Together, with the help of the instructor, a common challenge or issue facing agriculture will be decided upon. The students will collaborate on a project addressing the issue or challenge identified. Each student will select their own subtopic for the written component (see next description). Together, the students project must be cohesive and presented together as a way the issue could be addressed. Students will have the support from the instructor to decide on their topic or subject.

Length, format and detailed expectations of presentation to be discussed in class.

Final written report (5% paper outline and 10% final report)

Each student will write a final report on their ‘sub theme’ within the collaborative group project. They will be expected to write an introduction to the issue and then summarize how their selected topic can address said issue. Students will be expected to submit the written

portion of this independently. Reports should be no longer than 5 pages, double spaced. Details to be discussed in class.

Grading

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	91-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	81-90	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	75-80	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	70-74	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-69	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

Late Submission/Missed Test Policy

- All assignments should be submitted by the due date listed in the course schedule. If an extension is required due to health or other compassionate reasons, the student make a request to the instructor in writing.
- Students who fail to submit work on time and do not ask for an extension are subject to the late assignment penalty. The penalty is 10% per day reduction in the value of the student's grade for up to five days. After that point, the work is worth zero percent.
- Students are expected to make every effort possible to submit required work by the due date.

Important Dates

February 21 - No classes – Louis Riel Day

February 22-25 – Mid Term Break

April 25 - Last date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty

April 25 - Last date of class

In-Person Learning (If possible after February 26, 2022)

The University of Manitoba (the “UM”) is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Should campus operations change because of health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic or other campus-wide emergency, it is possible that this course will move to a fully remote delivery format. Should the instructor be required to stay at home for an extended period and an alternate instructor not be available, the course may move temporarily to a remote delivery format. In that instance, you may be

provided with an asynchronous option to minimize the impact the change may have on your schedule.

PPE and Mask Wearing

In a face-to-face environment, our commitment to safety requires students to observe all physical distancing (2m) and personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines set by the University (<https://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus>)

While on campus and in class, you must wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as stipulated in current [University policies, procedures, and guidelines](#). Students who fail to comply are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Discipline Bylaw](#) and the [Non-Academic Misconduct and Concerning Behaviour Procedure](#).

Medical-grade 3-ply masks are available at many locations on campus, including specific classroom locations, designated by your unit, the Elizabeth Dafoe Library (Fort Garry Campus) and the Brodie Centre main doors (Bannatyne Campus). Additional PPE, if necessary for a specific learning environment, will be provided to you by the teaching unit.

If you do not follow masking and other requirements you will be asked to leave the learning space and may only return to the class already in progress when you have complied with these requirements. Repeated issues will result in disciplinary action as previously noted.

Students should not eat or drink during class time.

Illness

Remember: **STAY HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OR ARE ILL**. If you become sick or are required to self-isolate you should notify your instructor by email so you can develop a plan to complete the course learning outcomes while you are absent.

If you have symptoms, do not come to campus or any UM facilities. Complete the [self-assessment](#) on the Manitoba Public Health site and follow the guidelines, which may include booking a COVID-19 test.

What to do if you become ill while at UM:

1. Leave the classroom, lab or workspace immediately. Continue to wear your mask while leaving the premises and/or while waiting for transportation.
2. Perform hand hygiene (soap and water or hand sanitizer) and avoid contact with others, and minimize contact with the physical environment.
3. Once at home, complete the [MB self-assessment](#) and follow the directions that are provided.

4. Inform your supervisor(s), instructor(s) or, if in residence, the appropriate individual.
5. You must remain off campus and all UM facilities until cleared to return in accordance with self-assessment, testing results, or MB Health requirements.

Recommended transportation options (in order):

1. Drive yourself home.
2. Pick-up by family or friend – remember to keep your mask on and to distance as much as possible, and where possible, open a window to improve ventilation.
3. Pickup by taxi/Uber:
 - Remain masked and perform hand hygiene before entering the vehicle.
 - Avoid touching the inside of the vehicle
 - Keep your mask on for the duration of the ride
 - Where possible, open a window to improve ventilation.
4. Winnipeg Transit buses - Winnipeg Transit has indicated that individuals that are ill **must not use Transit**