

University of Manitoba  
Department of Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics

**ABIZ 4260 Price Analysis**  
Winter 2021

Course schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:15 pm

Class web page: [www.umanitoba.ca/umlearn](http://www.umanitoba.ca/umlearn)

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98963596535?pwd=b2ppRGg1UVRxSFNVSGI2NitvZWNTdz09>

Meeting ID: 989 6359 6535

Passcode: Price

**Instructor**

Dr. Julieta Frank

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Office hours: T-Th 2:15 - 3:30 pm or by appointment, same zoom link listed above.

**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, 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. 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 by phone at (204) 474-8600 or by e-mail at [servicedesk@umanitoba.ca](mailto:servicedesk@umanitoba.ca).

## **Textbook**

Material covered in class will be based on: Tomek, W. G., and H. M. Kaiser. *Agricultural Product Prices*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York, USA, 2014. The book is available from our Library in electronic format.

## **Course Format and Requirements**

I will post pre-recorded lectures in the class website. We will meet over zoom for discussions and to work on in-class assignments, usually once a week on Thursdays. Students are expected to go over the posted lectures before we meet on Thursdays. Please keep Tuesdays open as we may need that extra day for some topics. When you log in to zoom, please make sure that your microphone is muted, unless you need to talk, and that your first and last name is showing, to make it easier for me to get to know the students in the class. To pass the course students are expected to go over the posted lectures and complete in-class assignments 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 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 by phone at (204) 474-7423, or by email at [student\\_accessibility@umanitoba.ca](mailto: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 29: Last day to drop courses  
February 1: Last day to add courses  
February 15: Louis Riel Day  
February 16-19: Winter Term Break  
March 4: Midterm Exam  
March 31: Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal  
April 2: Good Friday  
April 16: Last day of classes  
April 19-May 1: Final Exam period