Syllabus

PLNT 3560: Organic Crop Production on the Prairies
(Winter Term & 2023)
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### COURSE DETAILS

- **Course Title & Number:** Crop Production PLNT 3560
- **Number of Credit Hours:** 3
- **Class Times & Days of Week:** 6:00 to 8:30 PM – Mondays;
- **Location for classes/labs/tutorials:**
  - Class: Room 130 Agriculture (Carolyn Sifton Auditorium).
  - Hands-on research projects: Conservatory greenhouse
- **Pre-Requisites:** Soil 3600

### Instructor Contact Information

- **Instructor(s) Name & Preferred Form of Address:** Professor Martin H. Entz “Professor Entz”
- **Office Location:** Plant Science Room 309
- **Office Hours or Availability:** Make an appointment face-to-face or email.
- **Office Phone No.:** 204 474-6077
- **Email:** m.entz@umanitoba.ca
- **Contact:** The best way to contact me is by email. Then we can arrange an in person meeting. We can also talk before and after class.

### Course Description

**U of M Course Calendar Description**

This course provides a detailed overview of organic crop production on the Canadian prairies. The course focusses on organic crop production principles and practices, and information is targeted to wet and dry areas of the prairies. The course focuses on both the science and art of organic farming.

**General Course Description**

Through lectures, responding to student questions, and voices from different people involved in organic crop production in Canada, students will gain a comprehensive perspective of organic crop production. The course will also interest students who want to learn about holistic, systems-based approaches to
agriculture. The course will also provide students with practical approaches to improving soil health and teach students about new and exciting weed management strategies. Organic Crop Production on the Prairies is an elective or restricted elective course (depending on which degree stream you are in). It is best taken later in your program when students have completed foundational courses in soils and crops. There will be some new concepts introduced so students are encouraged to engage the instructor for clarification whenever necessary. Asking questions is encouraged, and a great way to learn.

Course Goals
The organic food market is growing rapidly and hence organic agriculture represents an important opportunity for farmers, food processors and marketers. There are approximately 250 certified organic farmers in Manitoba and close to 6000 across Canada. Some Canadian farmers have converted a portion of their farms to certified organic in an effort to capture new markets for traditional crops; learn new ways of enriching soils with nutrients; and learn new ways to manage weeds. Canadian companies are starting to hire organic crop and soil consultants, so training in organic crop production is an asset. Organic methods are increasingly seen as useful for conventional production as well. For example, herbicide resistance management requires that farmers employ alternative weed control methods – methods that have been developed on organic farms and through organic crop production research. Finally, this course is unique because it emphasizes a systems or whole farm approach to crop production.

Course Learning Objectives
Course Objectives - After completing this course, students will:

- Learn the principles and practices of organic crop production in Canada
- Become aware of the scientific basis for organic crop production practices
- Gain insight into the history and philosophy of organic agriculture
- Learn how to design organic crop production systems for Prairie farms, including management of nutrient flows
- Learn from organic farmers about design and maintenance of profitable and productive organic systems
- Conduct hands-on research on soil and weed management in organic farming.

Textbook, Readings, and Course Materials
There is no selected textbook for this course. Reference book chapters and journal articles are available through UM library links, and a reading list is provided below.

Required textbook – There is no textbook for this course.

Supplementary readings – Course notes (word documents) and powerpoints for each lesson are uploaded onto UM Learn.
Recommended or required materials (e.g. lab equipment, art supplies, computers, etc.) – provided: required for independent study projects.

Using Copyrighted Material
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.

Course Technology
The course will be offered in person, or a combination of in-person and WebEx. Students are free to use tablets, cellphones, laptops, etc. in the classroom provided these are used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner.

Expectations: I Expect You To
All students are expected to review powerpoint and word notes prior to each lesson. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. All students are expected to attend all classes. We will adhere to the UM’s respectful work and learning policy See Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy.

The policies and services students are listed below (Section 2.5 ROASS).

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

Academic Integrity:
Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Manitoba Academic Integrity principles. 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 complies with the academic integrity regulations. You must do your own work during exams. Inappropriate collaborative behavior and violation of other Academic Integrity principles, will lead to the serious disciplinary action. Visit the Academic Calendar, Student Advocacy, and Academic Integrity web pages for more information and support.

Refer to specific course requirements for academic integrity for individual and group work such as:
I. Students must complete class and lab assignments on their own – no collaboration on assignments is allowed; and
II. All other work should be completed independently unless otherwise specified.

Recording Class Lectures:
The discussion periods will not be recorded. In case of students missing class due to medical (e.g. Covid 19) reasons, students will be able to join the class through WebEx; these sessions will be recorded.

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

Expectations: You Can Expect Me To
I will be in class (on-line) 10 minutes prior to the class time to discuss any questions or comments you may have. I am available to discuss class material and answer questions outside of class time. Please email to make an appointment. I will not answer emails between 6 PM on Fridays and 7 AM on Mondays.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND COURSE EVALUATION
This course is offered over 13 weeks. Lecture notes for each week are on the UM Learn site for this course. The individual lesson notes are accompanied by the powerpoint slides for that lesson and any additional resource material (e.g., websites, extra readings and statistical information regarding crop production). All lecture resources are available on UM Learn.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day and class time</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Resources (all material for class is available on course UM learn site)</th>
<th>Instructor/format</th>
<th>Evaluation (with due date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11 or 12 4:30 to 5:30 PM (flexible to accommodate students)</td>
<td>Independent study projects orientation</td>
<td>Greenhouse and lab facilities</td>
<td>M. Entz In person</td>
<td>Final reports (total of 20% of course) Due April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 16 6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>The organic crop production sector in Canada. Why is it called the “Soil association”? Soil as the foundation for organic agriculture</td>
<td>Organic farm case studies from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec Soil health fundamentals: building block for organic production.</td>
<td>M. Entz In person</td>
<td>Mind map of one farm example (7%) Due Jan 23, 6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23 6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Production practices I. Rotation and whole farm planning for organic production. Nutrient management in organic cropping systems.</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material Also: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eRp9-Kk3TM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eRp9-Kk3TM</a></td>
<td>M. Entz On line</td>
<td>Points of greatest interest – reflection 400 word (3%) Due Jan 26, 6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30 6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Phosphorous management in organic production systems through scientific and co-learning approaches</td>
<td>In-person class with 2 guest lecturers</td>
<td>Dr. Joanne Thiessen Martens; Laetitia Mukungu.</td>
<td>Points of greatest interest – reflection 400 word (3%) Due Feb 2, 6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6 6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Production practices II. Tillage and weed management</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material Also: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY-UBUZNAHQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY-UBUZNAHQ</a></td>
<td>M. Entz On line</td>
<td>Points of greatest interest – reflection 400 word (3%) Due Feb 9, 6 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Instructor(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Developing and testing crops and crop varieties for organic production. Participatory plant breeding experiences in Canada</td>
<td>In-person class with guest lecturer</td>
<td>Michelle Carkner, PhD candidate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Greenhouse/lab experiments</td>
<td>Collect data from greenhouse experiments.</td>
<td>S. Wilcott, L. Mukungu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Production practices III. Weed, insect and disease management</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Book club: Discussion of “Food security: From excess to enough” by Ralph C. Martin (Dr. Martin has agreed to join the class on-line from his home in Guelph, Ontario)</td>
<td>Discussion with Book’s author</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Production practices IV. Crop-livestock integration. Production practices V. Soil management.</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Organic certification (Will Bailey-Elkin, professional organic certifier); Organic businesses in Canada</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material and guest lecturer</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Organic case studies from around the world (Italy, Germany, USA, New Zealand)</td>
<td>UM learn lecture material</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>6:00 to 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Student presentations Organic extension/education programs</td>
<td>In-class student presentations</td>
<td>M. Entz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Class Content &amp; Teaching Strategies</td>
<td>Required Readings or any Pre-class Preparation</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan, Feb, March</td>
<td>Important to engage students</td>
<td>Reflections will be based on class material covered.</td>
<td>6 Reflections worth 3 marks each</td>
<td>Thursday at 6 PM (3 days after class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Farm mind map</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>Book provided to each student.</td>
<td>Review and discussion of R. Martin’s “From excess to enough”</td>
<td>February 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Scientific paper review</td>
<td>See instructions below</td>
<td>Students will create a powerpoint presentation for an assigned scientific paper</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Organic extension</td>
<td>See instructions below</td>
<td>Students will design an extension/educational event or activity</td>
<td>April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>See instructions below</td>
<td>Independent research project. Either a data-based project or a hands-on greenhouse study.</td>
<td>April 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In class participation</td>
<td>To increase engagement in course materials and activities</td>
<td>Active participation in class activities</td>
<td>Active listening, participation in discussion, questions, other initiatives</td>
<td>Grade assigned April 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading

Indicate your grading scale. A sample is given below that you can adjust to your course expectations. Note that students must receive a minimum grade of 50% in the lab in order to pass the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage out of 100</th>
<th>Grade Point Range</th>
<th>Final Grade Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4.25-4.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>86-94.9</td>
<td>3.75-4.24</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-85.9</td>
<td>3.25-3.74</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>74-79.9</td>
<td>2.75-3.24</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-73.9</td>
<td>2.25-2.74</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64.9</td>
<td>2.0-2.24</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59.9</td>
<td>Less than 2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 50</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voluntary Withdrawal

Students should refer to the Registrar’s Office web page for more information on voluntary withdrawal date. This date is the last day to drop the class and receive 100% refund. Students who do not drop the course by the deadline will be assigned a final grade. Withdrawal of courses will be recorded on official transcript. The professor is willing to discuss student’s progress and strategies for improvement prior the withdrawal date.

Assignment Descriptions

Reflections (18%): A 400 word response for 6 selected weeks (see above)

In 400 words, reflect on what you have learned in that week’s class. A number of points can be reflected on, each followed by a comment or question. Only responses posted in UM Learn will be accepted – email responses will not be accepted.

Weekly question log due by 6 PM, the Thursday after each respective class.

Other assignments

Mind Map Assignment (7%)

All details and examples provided on UM Learn under “Mind map” (under assignments)

Draw a mind map for one of the farms described in the lecture. This should include a hand-drawn (or computer generated) map on one page. In your mind map, you may not be able to capture all aspects of the farm, but make sure the basic farm structure and function are included. Make sure you include the major components of the farm, including:
• Landbase
• Human resources
• Crops and other enterprises
• Machinery use
• Natural processes emphasized in the farming system
• Markets
• Other

Also indicate some of the major linkages between different components in the map.

Scientific paper review (10%)
Each student will be assigned a scientific paper. The assignment is to summarize the scientific paper in a 8 slide powerpoint presentation. All details and examples provided on UM learn under “Scientific paper review” (under assignments)

Book review (15%)
Students will each be provided a copy of “From excess to enough” by Ralph Martin. Students will write a 1000 word review of the book. Roughly ½ of the report should be a broad overview of the book’s content, while the other ½ will be your response to some of the points made in the book. Of the 15%, 12% are for the review, and 3% are for the discussion with author. (Held on March 13, 2023).

Organic extension/education design assignment (20%)
Field days are an excellent way for farmers, agronomists, and other people working in the crop value chain to learn about the details of any crop production and soil management system. In Manitoba, farm organizations have hosted a number of such events – most recently called “Crop Paloozas”. You can visit these websites to see what different themes have been presented and discussed at the events.
https://mbdiversificationcentres.ca/2202-2/
https://www.topcropmanager.com/events/manitoba-canolapalooza/
http://manitobacorn.ca/crops-a-palooza/

This assignment challenges students to create an “Organic Crop Palooza”. The event should be based outdoors with venues that include direct in-field demonstrations as well as booths where information, software and other information is presented in an interactive manner. The model for the assignment should follow that of the German Organic Field days, hosted every other year in Germany. Here is the link to the German event https://oeko-feldtage.de/?lang=en. Examples will be presented in class.

Research Projects (20%)
Six different experiments related to organic crop production and soil management will be carried out in the greenhouse. Students will be randomly assigned to three of the experiments. Students must collect data from the experiments, and write a lab report on the three studies. All details and examples provided on UM learn under “Research projects” (under assignments)
Assignment Feedback
Marks for the 6 reflection logs will be provided before the next week’s class. This way, students will have immediate feedback on their performance and can therefore adjust to improve future grades. Class assignments will be graded and returned to students within one week of receiving them. Each assignment will receive feedback in terms of content, level of insight and analysis, and grammar and overall composition. There will be both formative (i.e., comments) and summative (i.e., grade) feedback. The feedback will be delivered electronically.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy
No late assignments for the weekly response log will be accepted. UM Learn will be blocked after the allotted time and no further options for submission of the daily response logs will be possible. For all other assignments, students will lose 10% for each 24 hours late. All assignments must be submitted to pass the course.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT OFFICES & POLICIES
Information on university support offices and policies are provided in Schedule “A” below.

Schedule “A”
Section (a) sample re: A list of academic supports available to Students, such as the Academic Learning Centre, Libraries, and other supports as may be appropriate:

Writing and Learning Support
The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers services that may be helpful to you throughout your academic program. Through the ALC, you can meet with a learning specialist to discuss concerns such as time management, learning strategies, and test-taking strategies. The ALC also offers peer supported study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In these study groups, students have opportunities to ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

You can also meet one-to-one with a 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. If you are interested in meeting with a writing tutor, reserve your appointment two to three days in advance of the time you would like to meet. Also, plan to meet with a writing tutor a few days before your paper is due so that you have time to work with the tutor’s feedback.

These 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/

You can also contact the Academic Learning Centre by calling 204-480-1481 or by visiting 205 Tier Building.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)
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 managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, 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 in-person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject: http://bit.ly/WcEbA1 or name: http://bit.ly/1tJ0bB4. In addition, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries’ homepage: www.umanitoba.ca/libraries.

Section (b) sample: re: A statement regarding mental health that includes referral information:

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 University Centre or S207 Medical Services
(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. Student Support Intake Assistant http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html
520 University Centre
(204) 474-7423

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. University Health Service http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/
104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus
(204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)

Health and Wellness
Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in peer support from Healthy U or information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms, and sexual assault. Health and Wellness Educator https://umanitoba.ca/student/health-wellness/welcome-about.html
britt.harvey@umanitoba.ca
Live Well @ UofM
For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:
http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html

Section (c) sample: re: A notice with respect to 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.

Section (d) sample: re: A statement directing the student to 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 http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html is one important source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- 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 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 http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy_-_2013_10_01.pdf

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