COURSE TITLE  Principles of Scientific Research and Communication

Department  Soil Science  Course Number  SOIL7220
Academic Session  Winter 2023  Credit Hours  3
Classroom Location  342 Ellis Building
Meeting Days and Class Hours  TTh 1130 - 1245
Department Office location  Ellis 362  Phone Number: 204-474-8153

Instructor Information

Course coordinator:  Dr. Francis Zvomuya (Francis.Zvomuya@umanitoba.ca, 204-474-9932)

Instructors:
- Dr. Chantal Bassett (Chantal.Bassett@umanitoba.ca)
- Dr. Nasem Badreldin (Nasem.Badreldin@umanitoba.ca)
- Dr. Xiaopeng Gao (Xiaopeng.Gao@umanitoba.ca)
- Dr. David Lobb (David.Lobb@umanitoba.ca)
- Dr. Afua Mante (Afua.Mante@umanitoba.ca)
- Dr. Joanne Thiessen Martens (J.ThiessenMartens@umanitoba.ca)

Course Philosophy

Students’ Learning Responsibilities
Students are required to attend all lectures in a given unit and therefore each lecture offered in the course is mandatory. Students are responsible to actively participate in each unit.

Why this course is useful?
This course prepares graduate students for activities during their graduate degree and beyond.

Who should take this course?
Graduate students in the Department of Soil Science. This is a mandatory course for all M.Sc. graduate students and a required course for some of the Ph.D. students in the Department of Soil Science.

Course Description/Objectives

Calendar Description
Principles of scientific research; management skills; writing skills; oral and poster presentation; preparation of research proposal and thesis (pass/fail). These topics will focus on aspects of soil science and will give students experience in writing and presenting scientific material to increase their professionalism as soil scientists. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Instructional Methods
Lectures, discussions, practice in writing, poster production and oral presentations.

Course Objectives
The objectives of SOIL7220 are to provide students with the scientific principles, critical thinking and ability to express ideas; to improve written and verbal skills; to impart ethical and respectful work attitudes and to gain experience in writing and presenting scientific material to increase their professionalism as soil scientists.
Learning outcomes
Upon completion of the course, the student should:
- Fully understand ethical scientific behavior
- Fully understand the importance of respectful behavior in a workplace with diversity of personnel
- Fully understand plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty related to the University and all aspects of scientific endeavor
- Understand the requirements of writing a thesis research proposal and their thesis to fully satisfy Departmental requirements
- Have a good working knowledge of how to write a scientific paper and a funding proposal, and to understand the scientific publishing process
- Be able to plan their thesis and other projects using time management tools
- Be able to craft an effective job application and prepare for a job interview
- Be able to make and present a good poster at a scientific conference
- Be able to answer questions concerning their scientific presentations confidently
- Be able to give a good oral presentation on a scientific subject using visual aids.

Assignment Due Dates
As given by each instructor in class.

Grade Evaluation
In some cases, there will be written and/or oral exercises. Each course unit will be assigned a pass/fail grade by the instructor involved. Each instructor will clearly explain in his/her first or only lecture what entitles a pass or fail in his/her lecture unit. Students will need to pass EACH unit in order to earn a PASS in the ENTIRE course.

Important Dates
First Class Date: January 17, 2023
Winter Term break: February 21 – 24 (No classes)
Voluntary withdrawal date: March 22
Last day of class: April 11 (might vary depending on number of students in the course)

Texts, Readings, Materials

Textbook($) – Authors, Titles, Edition
Note that no particular textbook is prescribed for this course. However, a range of course materials may be distributed or discussed in class. Please read these materials at home. These materials will help you to better understand the lectures and the in-class discussions. In some cases, they will also help you to complete your assignments.

Course Policies

Late Assignments: Set by each instructor.

Missed Assignments: Set by each instructor.

Missed Exams: No exams.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism or any other form of cheating in examinations, term tests or academic work 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. Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on academic integrity (http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/).

Group Work Policies: Set by each instructor in class.
Course Content

Lectures: Lectures are to be held in person on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 12:45 pm from January 17 to March 28, as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>How to be a successful student: Introduction</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Scientific Research Principles 1</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24</td>
<td>Scientific Research Principles 2</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Scientific Research Principles 3</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Equity, diversity and inclusion 1</td>
<td>Mante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feb 2-3</strong></td>
<td><strong>MSSS meetings – no class</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>Equity, diversity and inclusion 2</td>
<td>Mante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>Thesis Proposal and Outline</td>
<td>Xiaopeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Poster Presentations 1</td>
<td>Badreldin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Job applications</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feb 21-24</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Break - no class</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Poster Presentations 2</td>
<td>Badreldin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Poster Presentations 3</td>
<td>Badreldin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>Writing Research Funding Proposals</td>
<td>Bassett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Writing Scientific Articles 1</td>
<td>Lobb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 14</td>
<td>Writing Scientific Articles 2</td>
<td>Lobb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>Oral Presentations 1</td>
<td>Thiessen Martens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 21</td>
<td>Oral Presentations 2</td>
<td>Thiessen Martens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>Xiaopeng Gao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>Job interviews</td>
<td>Zvomuya</td>
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</tbody>
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Some topics discussed in each unit are as follows:

*How to be a successful student:* expectations and hints for your programs

*EDI:* equity, diversity and inclusiveness; respect

*Scientific principles and ethics:* scientific philosophy, ethics and science, critical thinking and evaluation, and research observations and recording.

*Poster presentations:* techniques for preparing and delivering an effective poster presentation, poster critique, preparation of a poster.

*Project Management:* managing time, managing projects, and tracking and charting progress in projects (eg. completing your graduate program on time).

*Thesis Proposal and Outline:* organization, content, format and presentation of your thesis to follow our guidelines.

*Writing Scientific Articles:* writing a manuscript, techniques, formats, audience.

*Writing Research Funding Proposals:* writing proposals to attract funding.

*Interviews:* addressing questions at a conference or thesis defense, or when being interviewed by the media or potential employers.

*Oral presentations and seminars:* preparing and delivering an effective oral presentation, using software for oral presentations, chairing and conduct of presentations, in-class practice presentations.
UM Policies

As a student at 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 University of Manitoba (UM) website’s Governing Documents (https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents) is one important source of information, in particular the Academic and Students sections. The Student Advocacy office can also help you understand policies and procedures; find their information in the UM Learner Supports section below.

Academic Calendar

The Academic Calendar (https://umanitoba.ca/registrar/academic-calendar) is the University’s official publication containing course descriptions, program and graduation requirements, as well as UM and faculty/school-specific rules, regulations and policies. In particular, familiarize yourself with the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations.

Academic Integrity

In addition to reviewing your instructor’s academic integrity policy listed in their syllabus, you are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar (https://umanitoba.ca/registrar/academic-calendar) and specifically read the regulation pertaining to Academic Integrity. Ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work, and consult the following UM resources for more information and support:

- Academic Integrity (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity)
  - Student Resources (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity#resources-to-conduct-academic-work-with-integrity)
  - Academic Misconduct and How to Avoid It (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity#academic-misconduct-and-how-to-avoid-it)
- Student Advocacy Office (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/student-advocacy)

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 (https://umanitoba.ca/copyright/) provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community.

Grade Appeals

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 (https://umanitoba.ca/registrar/grades/appeal-grade) for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form.

Intellectual Property

For information about rights and responsibilities regarding intellectual property view the Intellectual Property Policy (https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents/governing-documents-university-community#intellectual-property)

Program-Specific Regulations

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 website (https://umanitoba.ca/academics).
Respectful Work and Learning Environment
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 and respectful manner. Policies governing UM community behaviour include:

- [Respectful Work and Learning Environment](https://umanitoba.ca/about-um/respectful-work-and-learning-environment-policy)
- [Student Discipline](https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents-students#student-discipline)
- [Violent or Threatening Behaviour](https://umanitoba.ca/governance/governing-documents-students#violent-or-threatening-behaviour)

The UM website, [Engaging in Respectful Conduct](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/respectful-conduct), includes more details about expectations for behaviours related to university activities.

Sexual Violence Policies
The UM has several policies and procedures that deal with the rights and responsibilities of the University community with regards to all forms of sexual violence. For a comprehensive list of policies and associated resources, visit the [Sexual Violence Resource Centre’s information page](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/sexual-violence-support-and-education/sexual-violence-get-informed). Please note that there are many supports available in addition to these policy documents (see UM Learner Supports).

Voluntary Withdrawal
Voluntary withdrawal (VW) is a way for students to leave a class without academic penalty once the Registration Revision Period has ended. If you opt to voluntarily withdraw from a course, you will not be eligible for a refund and, if applicable, will still be required to pay any outstanding tuition fees for the course. On your transcript, the course you have withdrawn from will be listed; however, “VW” will appear in lieu of a grade. If you do not drop a course before the VW deadline, you will receive a final grade in the course on your transcript.

Please note that there are separate deadlines for dropping a course early in a term during the Registration Revision Period. Dropping a course means you are removing that course from your schedule, will not be charged tuition fees for that course, and the course will not appear on your transcript.

The Registrar’s Office website, [Withdraw from a Course](https://umanitoba.ca/registrar/withdraw-course), includes more information on the different ways in which you can withdraw from a course and important dates and deadlines to do so.

UM Learner Supports
Below you will find a select list of important supports for learners at the UM, both academic supports and otherwise. For a complete listing of all learner supports at the University of Manitoba, visit the [Student Supports website](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports).

**Academic Advising**
Contact an [Academic Advisor](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-advising) for support with degree planning and questions about your academic program and regulations.

**Academic Learning Centre (ALC)**
The [Academic Learning Centre](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning) offers one-to-one tutoring, groups study sessions and workshops, as well as video and tip-sheet resources to help you throughout your academic program. All Academic Learning Centre programing, supports, and services are free for UM students.

Make an appointment for [free one-to-one tutoring](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/tutoring-group-study#individual-tutoring). [Content tutors](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/tutoring-group-study#individual-tutoring) (over 90 UM courses) can help you understand concepts and learn problem-solving strategies. [Study skills tutors](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/tutoring-group-study#individual-tutoring) can help you improve your skills such as time
management and goal setting, reading and note-taking, as well as learning and test-taking strategies. **Writing tutors** can give you feedback on your academic writing, whether you are just getting started on a written assignment or already have a draft. **English as an Additional Language** specialist, Antoanela Denchuk, is available for one-to-one tutoring to help you improve your English-language academic writing skills. Use the drop-down menu, read the tutor biographies, and make an appointment for tutoring on the [Academic Learning Centre schedule](https://manitoba.mywconline.com/).

Attend **Supplemental Instruction (SI)** ([https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/tutoring-group-study](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/tutoring-group-study)) sessions in historically difficult courses (including Chemistry, Engineering, and Computer Science). These free weekly review sessions are facilitated by a peer mentor who has previously taken the course and provide an opportunity to discuss course content, ask questions, compare notes, solve practice problems, and develop study strategies. See online for a list of SI courses and meeting times.

Register for an **Academic Success Workshop** ([https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/academic-success-workshops](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning/academic-success-workshops)), where you can learn strategies to improve your writing and studying. More information on topics, dates, and registration, are found online.

Register for **Faculty of Graduate Studies Grad Steps Workshops** ([https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/graduate-student-workshops](https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/graduate-student-workshops)). These workshops are specifically designed for students working towards Master’s degrees or PhDs. More information on topics, dates, and registration can be found online.

Access the Academic Learning Centre’s collection of [videos and tip sheets](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-learning#tip-sheets-for-writing-and-study-skills) to help you with many of the academic tasks you’ll encounter in university.

**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.

**Basic Needs**

It can be difficult to learn and succeed in courses when you are struggling to meet your or your family’s basic needs. Several UM and community resources are listed below if you would benefit from support with regards to housing, food, finances, and/or childcare:

- **Housing**
  - UM Housing ([https://umanitoba.ca/housing](https://umanitoba.ca/housing))
  - Winnipeg Rental Network ([https://www.winnipegrentnet.ca/](https://www.winnipegrentnet.ca/))
  - HOPE End Homelessness Winnipeg Services & Supports ([https://umanitoba.ca/housing](https://umanitoba.ca/housing))
- **Food**
- **Finances**
  - Manitoba Student Aid ([https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/msa/))
- **Child Care**
  - UM Child Care ([https://umanitoba.ca/about-um/child-care](https://umanitoba.ca/about-um/child-care))
  - Manitoba Child Care Association ([https://mccahouse.org/looking-for-child-care/](https://mccahouse.org/looking-for-child-care/))

**English Language Centre**

The [English Language Centre (ELC)](https://umanitoba.ca/english-language-centre) provides courses, tests, accommodations and individual support to students whose first language is not English in order to support academic success and participation in the University of Manitoba community.
Health and Wellness

Physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and wellness play a critical role in student success. See all of UM’s resource on their Health and Wellness (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-health-and-wellness) website, and make note of several specific UM and community supports listed below.

Winnipeg Urgent Physical and Mental Health Care

If you are an adult experiencing a mental health or psychosocial crisis, contact the Klinic Community Health (https://klinic.mb.ca/crisis-support/) 24/7 crisis line at 204-786-8686, visit the Crisis Response Centre (https://sharedhealthmb.ca/services/mental-health/crisis-response-centre/) located at 817 Bannatyne Avenue, or contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781.

To speak with a nurse for guidance on what health-care path to take for the issue you are facing or for general information about health resources available in Manitoba, contact Health Links (https://misericordia.mb.ca/programs/phcc/health-links-info-sante/) at 1-888-315-9257 (toll free).

If you need urgent medical care, visit the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority’s Emergency Department & Urgent Care Wait Times webpage (https://wrha.mb.ca/wait-times/) for a list of locations and current wait times.

Student Counselling Centre (SCC)

The Student Counselling Centre (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-health-and-wellness/student-counselling-centre-scc) provides free counselling and mental health support to UM, English Language Centre, and International College of Manitoba (ICM) students. We are open year-round, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Our commitment is to offer a support service to every student who contacts us.

Visit the SCC’s For Urgent Help (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-health-and-wellness/student-counselling-centre-scc#for-urgent-help) webpage or the urgent care resources listed above if you require immediate support.

Visit the SCC’s Our Services (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-health-and-wellness/student-counselling-centre-scc#for-urgent-help) webpage for more information on accessing a variety of services including individual counselling, counselling workshops and groups, support resources, and learning disability assessment services.

The SCC is located is located at 474 UMSU University Centre (Fort Garry Campus).

Health and Wellness Office

Students often juggle multiple demands, and we recognize that it can be difficult to find balance. For any changes you want to make to your health and wellness, the Health and Wellness Office at the University of Manitoba would like to support you in your journey. We are here to help you take control of your own health and make your own decisions. We are a judgment-free space and we avoid labels whenever possible. For more information, please visit the Health and Wellness Office (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/health-wellness) website.

Spiritual Care and Multifaith Centre

Spiritual care services are available to all, whether you identify as spiritual, atheist, religious or agnostic. Spiritual Services (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/spiritual-services) also offer specific denominational support for certain religious groups and by Indigenous Elders-in-Residence.

Student Support Case Management (SSCM)

Contact the Student Support Case Management team (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/student-advocacy/case-management) 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.

University Health Service (UHS)

The University Health Service (https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/health-wellness/university-health-service) offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation, via two health clinics:
• Fort Garry Campus: (204) 474-8411, ACW-Lot temporary trailer (behind the Isbister building)
• Bannatyne Campus: (204) 474-8411, P309 – Pathology Building

**Student Services at Bannatyne Campus**
Student Services at Bannatyne Campus (SSBC) offers a full range of mental health supports to students and residents in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, along with other academic and personal supports. Visit the [SSBC website](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/student-services-bannatyne-campus) for a list of services available.

**Indigenous Students**
Staff, faculty and Elders are well-equipped to ensure your university experience is as beneficial, accessible, and successful as possible. Visit the Indigenous [Student Experience](https://umanitoba.ca/indigenous/student-experience) website for more information on the supports and services available.

**International Students**
The transition to a new country and a new academic system can be both exciting and overwhelming. The International Centre (IC) is here to help you settle into life at University of Manitoba. Visit the [International Students](https://umanitoba.ca/current-students/international) website for more information.

**Sexual Violence Support and Education**
Sexual violence affects people of all ages, sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, abilities and relationship statuses. At the U of M, we are committed to ensuring a respectful work and learning environment for all. We want to build a safe and inclusive campus community where survivors of sexual violence know they can receive the supports they need to succeed, both academically and personally.

The [Sexual Violence Resource Centre](https://umanitoba.ca/sexual-violence), located at 537 UMSU University Centre (Fort Garry campus) provides support, resources, information and referral services for any student, faculty or staff member who has been affected by sexual violence.

**Student Accessibility Services (SAS)**
The University of Manitoba is committed to providing an accessible academic community. [Student Accessibility Services](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/accessibility) 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 health, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation. SAS is located at 520 University Centre (Fort Garry Campus).

**Student Advocacy**
[Student Advocacy](https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/student-advocacy) is a safe place for students. We help you navigate university processes and advocate for your rights as a student at UM. If anything in your personal or academic life is affecting your studies, contact our confidential intake assistant by phone (204-474-7423) or email (stadv@umanitoba.ca).

**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](http://bit.ly/WcEbA1) can be found by subject.

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 [UM Libraries and Departments](https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/c.php?g=298526) webpage. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the [University of Manitoba Libraries’ homepage](https://umanitoba.ca/libraries/)