



**University
of Manitoba** | Faculty of Agricultural
and Food Sciences

Syllabus

DAGR 0910:

Integrated Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

(Winter 2024)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

We recognize that Indigenous communities have important knowledge of land and living essential to a healthy agriculture community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE DETAILS.....	3
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION.....	3
COURSE DESCRIPTION	4
COURSE GOALS	4
COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	5
COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY.....	5
EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES.....	6
COURSE SCHEDULE	7
VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL.....	7
COURSE ASSESSMENT.....	8
GRADING	10
REFERENCING STYLE	10
ASSIGNMENT FEEDBACK.....	10
ASSIGNMENT EXTENSION AND LATE SUBMISSION POLICY	10
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.....	10
LEARNER SUPPORT	11
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	15
USING COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL	15

COURSE DETAILS

Course Title & Number:	DAGR 0910 - Sustainable Agri-Food Systems
Pre or Co-Requisite:	DAGR 0980: This course is restricted to students in the Year 2 Agriculture Diploma.
Number of Credit Hours:	3
Course Format:	In person, with option to pivot to remote learning occasionally to facilitate guest speaker participation, or in case of adverse circumstances.
Class Schedule:	MWF 9:30 am - 10:20 am 219 Animal Science All Diploma classes cancelled for Experiential Learning, January 19, 23-25, 2023.

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor(s) Name & Preferred Form of Address:	Phillip (Phil) Veldhuis
Office Hours or Availability:	I will typically be in my office for consultation from 10:30- 12:00PM, MWF.
Office Details:	236 Agriculture Building
Email:	Phillip.Veldhuis@umanitoba.ca Whenever possible, emails should be business-like in tone and format.
Contact:	1 st point of contact is Email: Phillip.Veldhuis@umanitoba.ca Expect reply within 1 hr during regular workdays. Reply times evenings and weekends may vary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

U of M Course Calendar Description

The agri-food system encompasses how food is being produced, processed, transported, marketed and consumed. The three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) will be used to evaluate and improve agricultural sustainability, and will also be applied to the agri-food system (beyond production). Sustainable solutions are unique to each agricultural situation and require long-term thinking and evidence-based decision-making. Focus will be on the balance between food production practices and protecting the natural resources on which agriculture is reliant.

General Course Description

This course will identify and evaluate strategies you can use to improve your farms sustainability. You will develop an awareness of farm level and global sustainability; and understand why both levels need to be considered.

Through the three pillars of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental) you will understand how farming decisions impact people, the economy and the environment. You will identify and explore multiple strategies to improve sustainability. You will evaluate which strategies are most suitable for the farm they study in DAGR 0890 & DAGR 0990.

This course will challenge you to view farming as a part of a complex food system. You will understand how farming and our current food systems came to exist. This broad view of agriculture will improve your ability to think critically about how and why we farm; and make informed decisions about doing so sustainably. This course builds on your existing farm knowledge and provides you an opportunity to explore sustainable strategies suitable for incorporation into their farm business management project.

Course Goals

1. Understand “sustainability” within the agriculture food system.
2. Understand what strategies are available to improve sustainability.
3. Learn to situate agriculture within food systems.
4. Learn to situate agriculture within the ecosystem.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define and describe agricultural sustainability.
2. Differentiate between farm level and global level sustainability.
3. List the 3 pillars of agricultural sustainability; explain how they are interrelated.
4. Explain why agricultural sustainability measured by improvements not a fixed objective.
5. Describe what food systems are: distinguishing between local and global food systems.
6. Examine the relationship between energy used to create food and edible food produced.
7. Describe how agricultural sustainability can be evaluated.
8. Evaluate agricultural sustainability using existing tools.
9. List examples of systems-based approaches, production practices, technologies and conservation strategies that can be used to improve agricultural sustainability.
10. Recognize that agricultural production practices are more sustainable when they are well-matched to the local natural environment.
11. Select sustainability-improvement strategies based on an examination of the specific farming situation.
12. Explain why there is no single solution to agricultural sustainability.
13. Describe strategies that could improve the sustainability of our food system beyond the farm gate, such as reducing food loss and waste.
14. Apply evidence-based decision-making skills to suggest strategies to improve the sustainability of agriculture.
15. Communicate information about agricultural sustainability to their peers.
16. Understand why food security is a problem in Canada and how it is being alleviated.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

Students are expected to have the minimum technology equipment to access [UMLearn](#). These requirements can be checked here: [System Check - University of Manitoba \(desire2learn.com\)](#).

This course will pivot to remote learning in case of adverse circumstances or remote guest speakers. You should have the necessary technology for interactive two way video calls using MS-TEAMS.

Course tour: Monday, January 22, 2024. Attendance is required.

In cooperation with other instructors, other tours have been arranged for AG Days and KAP AGM, attendance at these events is required. You cannot pass this course without attending these events.

Textbook: This course will have no required textbook.

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Student Responsibilities:

- I will expect you to be courteous and respectful to guest speakers, fellow students and myself. Please see the University of Manitoba's [Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy](#).
- Course expectations will be consistent with the policies of [Section 2.5 ROASS](#)
- Regularly log in to DAGR 0910 UM Learn site to access course information.
- Daily access to University of Manitoba student e-mail to receive course communications.
- Seek clarification from instructor if course syllabus or content is not understood.
- Complete all required course work.
- Comply with University of Manitoba Policies and Procedures.

Class Communication:

You are required to obtain and use your University of Manitoba email account for all communication between yourself and faculty like myself. All communication must comply with the Electronic [Communication with Student Policy](#).

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.

When you work in a team, ensure that your project complies with the academic integrity regulations.

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.

It is expected that all submitted work should be completed independently. Information from mentors or group collaboration should be appropriately cited in work submitted for academic credit.

Recording Class Lectures:

Because this class will occasionally present confidential or proprietary information, no audio or video recording of lectures or presentations is allowed in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part without permission of the course administrator. All course materials (both paper and digital) are only for the participant's private study and research.

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

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Student Accessibility Services
520 University Centre
Phone: (204) 474-7423
Email: Student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

Student EXPECTATIONS:

You can expect me to...

- make significant “office hours” available for individual consultation.
- your term work to be graded and returned approximately two weeks after submission.
- facilitate meeting your individual goals for the course.
- create an open and inclusive space for learning.
- Treat you with respect and fairness.
- Comply with University of Manitoba Policies and Procedures.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and/or based on the learning needs of the students but such changes are subject to [Section 2.8 of ROASS](#).

Lecture 9:30 am - 10:20 am MWF ANIMAL SCIENCE 219 Jan 08, 2024 - Apr 05, 2024

Detailed class topics and guest speakers will be posted on UMLEARN.

All Diploma classes cancelled for Experiential Learning, January 18, 22-24, 2024.

Voluntary Withdrawal

Students should make themselves aware of the last day to drop classes for full refund and the last day to drop class without academic penalty. All Students who do not officially drop the class will be assigned a final grade on your official transcript even if no coursework is submitted. Please refer to the [Registrar's Office](#) for more information.

I am always willing to discuss your progress and strategies for improvement in the course.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Course assessment will be based on 5 written assignments, all of equal value.

Assignment #1: Farmer Interviews & Project Proposal

GOAL: You will explore how current producers are actively working towards increasing sustainability on their farm. You will get some help choosing a project for the remainder of the course.

PROCEDURE: Students will interview 3 different agriculture producers regarding what they have done to increase the farms sustainability and how they are actively making changes to increase sustainability. Students will specifically seek a recommendation as to which specific sustainability initiative(s) are most relevant / useful to their farm. This recommendation will become the students' project for the remainder of the term. This project should be described fully enough to judge if implementation would satisfy all three pillars of sustainability.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submitted via drop box on UM Learn by as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A grading rubric will be provided on UM Learn

Assignment #2: Experiential Learning Report.

GOAL: Capture course relevant learning and experience from Experiential Learning Week.

PROCEDURE: Students will attend experiential activities and report.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Electronic copy submitted in the UMLearn Assignment dropbox as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A detailed rubric will be available with handout. Feedback will include suggestions about how to include report information in remaining course work.

Assignment #3: Farm plans and Project funding.

GOAL: To understand a sustainability farm plan program such as Manitoba's Environmental Farm Plan and how it might affect the implementation of the proposed project.

PROCEDURE: Students will choose a farm plan program to study, summarize their chosen plan and explain how it is relevant to their farm and their sustainability project.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submitted via drop box on UM Learn as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A grading rubric will be provided.

Assignment #4: Project feasibility:

Goal: students will assess if their chosen sustainability project is currently feasibly. If not students will describe what conditions might make it feasible.

Procedure: Students will assess the costs and benefits of their project if implemented on their farm. Both long and short term costs and benefits should be considered.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submitted via drop box on UM Learn as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A grading rubric will be provided.

Assignment #5: Final Prez slide (and notes).

GOAL: To summarize work thus far in the course for inclusion in students "final Prez" package.

PROCEDURE: Students project (and any other farm sustainability initiatives) is summarized in a page or slide that can be included in the students "Final Prez" documents. Student should have sufficient accompanying notes to be able to answer reasonable follow-up questions from panelists.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submitted via drop box on UM Learn as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A grading rubric will be provided.

Assignment #6: Implementation plan

GOAL: Students will recommend changes to their own farms system to increase sustainability. Students will report on actions necessary to implement their project on their farm.

PROCEDURE: Using the material covered in class and tools of evaluation, students will demonstrate their ability to recommend sustainability measures suitable for their own farms' operations.

Students will describe specific actions (including a budget) necessary to implement their project, benefits of implementation, and necessary policy changes.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: Submitted via drop box on UM Learn as per class schedule.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: A grading rubric will be provided on UM Learn

Grading

Your final grade in the course will be the average of your grades for the required assignments. All assignments are of equal value.

Letter Grades will be assigned using the following benchmarks.

Letter Grade	Percentage out of 100	Grade Point Range	Final Grade Point
A+	93-100	4.25-4.5	4.5
A	86-92.9	3.75-4.24	4.0
B+	78-84.9	3.25-3.74	3.5
B	71-77.9	2.75-3.24	3.0
C+	65-70.9	2.25-2.74	2.5
C	57-63.9	2.0-2.24	2.0
D	50-56.9	Less than 2.0	1.0
F	Less than 48		0

Referencing Style

You will do independent research for your coursework. Reference to supporting information is crucial to building evidence. This should be done clearly and frequently. **Each reference should make it absolutely clear exactly from who, where and when you found your supporting information.** The reference itself should allow anyone who wished to find the exact place and time where you found your information.

For example, your reference to a video should indicate: The person responsible for the content of the video; where the video can be viewed; the time the video was created; the time in the video where the relevant information is found. **A URL is not a sufficient reference.**

You can use any referencing style, consistently. MLA is recommended for ease of use. OWL Purdue is an excellent resource for students with questions about citations and references:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

Assignment Feedback

Assignments will receive comments in rubrics on UMLearn. Students can expect to receive feedback to their work approx. two weeks after submission. Students who have received low grades and challenging feedback on their assignments may request a rewrite opportunity that will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignment Extension and Late Submission Policy

Reasonable assignment extensions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Late assignments may not be accepted without prior approval from the course instructor or student services.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to complete your coursework and program of study with integrity by making a commitment to the six fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. <http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity>

Academic integrity looks like referencing the work of others that you have used and completing your assignments independently unless otherwise specified.

You 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.

LEARNER SUPPORT

Writing and Learning Support

The Academic Learning Centre (ALC) offers writing and learning supports to help you throughout your academic program. These supports are offered online during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Make an appointment with an ALC 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. The ALC also has an English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist available to work with students on improving their English-language academic writing skills.

Consult an ALC learning specialist or attend an academic skills workshop to improve your time management, learning strategies and test-taking strategies. Get support in select courses by making an appointment with an ALC content tutor. The ALC also offers peer-facilitated study groups called Supplemental Instruction (SI) for certain courses that students have typically found difficult. In SI study groups, students ask questions, compare notes, discuss content, solve practice problems, and develop new study strategies in a group-learning format.

In addition to one-to-one and group sessions, you can also find writing and study tip sheets and videos on the ALC website.

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/>

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.

University of Manitoba Libraries (UML)

Research begins at [UM Libraries](#). [Learn at the Libraries](#) is a great place to start, with information for students on academic writing, how to search the library, evaluating resources, and writing citations. 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 locating appropriate resources or managing citations, 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 online. When working remotely, students can also receive help

online through [Ask Us!](#) chat. For further detail about the libraries' services and collections, [visit the Libraries' web site](#). Regularly check our [COVID-19 Update](#) page for available library services and access to resources for Fall 2020

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 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 Klinik.

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)

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) <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:

https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/235.html

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Course Authors: Phil Veldhuis, Maggie Abwao. Content Preparation Thea Green.

Using Copyrighted Material

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.