



# Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Agri-Food Systems

Fall 2021 & Winter 2022, 1.0 Credits

Blended Asynchronous - Synchronous

Delivery

## General Course Information

**Instructors:** Dr. Simon Somogyi ([ssomogyi@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ssomogyi@uoguelph.ca))  
 Dr. Evan Fraser ([frasere@uoguelph.ca](mailto:frasere@uoguelph.ca))  
 Jeanna Rex; MEd, Education Coordinator Arrell Food Institute ([jeannar@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jeannar@uoguelph.ca))

**Email** Seeabove

**Office Location** Virtual

**Office Hours** One or more faculty will be available at set times

**Department/School** HFTM

**Class Schedule:**  
(Fall 2021)

Lectures	Team Work
Provided during scheduled virtual time (2:30 to 4:30 Mondays) or in CourseLink before/during virtual class time. There will be one face to face field trip.	During scheduled virtual class time or othertimes using Zoom, Microsoft Teams or other technology selected by the Team

**Class Schedule:**  
(Winter 2022)

Lectures	Team Work
Same as Fall Semester. There will be two face to face workshops on campus.	Same as Fall semester

**Pre-requisites:** Although there is no prerequisite students can only be signed into this course if they meet the criteria (i.e. OMAFRA HQP, Arrell or selected other students)

**Classroom:** Asynchronous & synchronous delivery using CourseLink

## Course Description

The course provides an experiential learning opportunity where students develop foundational skills in communication, teamwork, business development, social innovation, project management, and entrepreneurship to make them highly employable.

As a major component of their work, the students form small teams and work in partnership with an external partner on a project related to a key agri - food challenge as identified by the external partner. Teams are comprised of 3 - 4 graduate students of mixed disciplines who are required to work together 8 - 10 hours per week on the project for this 8 - month course.

## Course Learning Outcomes

**Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:**

### **Knowledge and Understanding:**

1. Identify the roles, types of strategies, and management challenges faced in various organizations involved in the agriculture and food systems;
2. Apply management and stakeholder engagement models to understand and develop approaches to addressing an agri - food challenge;

### **Discipline/Professional and Transferable Skills:**

3. Communicate and collaborate with peers and external partners to address a key agri - food challenge as identified by external partners;
4. Produce and deliver a variety of Knowledge mobilization tools such as presentation, web/blogs, videos, podcasts, slide decks, etc.

## Summary of Course Content and Materials

This course uses lectures that can be viewed at your own pace during selected weeks and synchronous meetings with teams and external partners and faculty mentors. See Teaching and Learning Practices below for details.

### Course Assessment – Fall 2021

Component	Weight	Learning Outcome	Due Date. All Assignments are due in CourseLink (T=Team assignment; I=individual assignment)
Work Contract	5	1,3,4	September 27 (T)
Value Chain Assignment	5	2, 3	November 1 (I)
Team Project Proposal & Budget (Draft)	5	1,3,4	November 15 (T)
Plain Language Assignment	5	4	November 22 (I)
Team Project - Proposal & Budget (Final)	20	1,3,4	December 10 (T)
<b>FALL TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>		

### Course Assessment – Winter 2022

Opinion Editorial	5	4	January 31 (I)
Team Project Report (Draft)	10	1,3,4	February 28 (T)
Policy Brief	5	4	March 7 (I)
Team Project Report (Final)	30	1,3,4	March 28 (T)
Team Project - Presentation	10	4	April 4 (T)
<b>WINTER TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>		

## Fall 2021 Schedule – Subject to Changes & Updates (details will be added each week in CourseLink)

Date	Class #	Topic	Mode (A or S) or F2F
<b>Sept</b>			
13	1	Introductions / Getting Organized / Course Expectations	S
20	2	Meet the Community Partners	S
27	3	Qualitative Business Research Methods	S
<b>Oct</b>			
4	4	Qualitative Interview Design & Research Ethics Board: Human Ethics Requirements	S
11	NO CLASS		
18	5	Survey design and Methods	S
25	6	Businesses in the Food Value Chain	
<b>Nov</b>			
1	7	Off Site Field Trip (details to follow)	F2F
8	8	Guest Lecture: Regenerative Agriculture	S
15	9	Plain Language Writing	A
22	10	Guest Lecture: The Field of Cellular Agriculture	S
29	11	Team Work on Final Proposal	A

## Tentative Schedule Winter Semester 2022 (method of delivery subject to change)

Date	Time	Class #	Topic	Mode (A or S) of F2F
<b>Jan</b>				
10	2:30-4:30	1	Team Work – faculty mentors available for Q & A	A
17	2:30-4:30	2	Opinion Editorial Writing *	S
24	2:30-4:30	3	Team Work	A
31	2:30-4:30	4	Guest Lecture	S
<b>Feb</b>				
7	2:30-5:30	5	Science Policy Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On campus with hospitality</li> </ul>	F2F
14		6	Guest Lecture: Adding Value: Food Economics	S
21			NO CLASS – READING WEEK	
28		7	Policy Brief Writing *	S
<b>Mar</b>				
7		8	Team Work	A
14		9	Guest Lecture: Community Food Insecurity	S
21		10	Team Work	A
28		11	Guest Lecture	S
<b>April</b>				
4	2:30-4:30	12	Community & Campus partners invited	F2F

## Teaching and Learning Practices

This course uses a blend of lectures, discussions, team projects with an external partner, individual writing assignments that will be managed virtually and asynchronously. The course schedule contains the details on week - by - week basis

## Course Policies

**Communication:** When sending an email, please use a formal style and make sure the email subject line is informative. Note also that you must use your University of Guelph email. Emails originating from other email services are automatically deleted from my account.

**Late or Missed Work:** If you are going to be late with work, email us as soon as possible. In the absence of an email or subsequent documentation there will be a 33<sup>1/3</sup>% grade deduction for each day or part day the assignment is late.

## University Policies

**Academic Consideration:** When you find yourself unable to meet an in - course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e - mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08 - ac.shtml>

**Academic Misconduct:** The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08 - amisconduct.shtml>

**Accessibility:** The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier - free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short - term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519 - 824 - 4120 ext. 56208 or email [sas@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sas@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>

**Course Evaluation Information:** Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#)

**Recording/Reuse of Materials:** No activity that occurs during this course, or which is conducted in relation to course work, may be copied without the written permission of the instructor.

**Drop date:** The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty is Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/>

Course instructors are aware that the ongoing pandemic continues to make things uncertain. We are here to support you so please reach out early to let us know of any physical or mental health issues you may

be experiencing. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for mental and physical needs and the U of G Student Wellness Centre (<https://wellness.uoquelfh.ca/>) is available to book an appointment with a medical professional.

\*\*Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://www.uoquelfh.ca/covid19/>) and circulated by email.