



Carleton
University

Sprett
School of Business

**ACCOUNTING: RELEVANCE &
INFLUENCE**
BUSI 4003A
WINTER 2025

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Pre-requisites: BUSI 2002 and BUSI 2501 and STAT 2601 with a grade of C- or higher in each.

Precludes: Precludes additional credit for BUSI 4000 (no longer offered).

Course Calendar Description (from the [2024/2025 University Calendar](#))

This course focuses on the evolution and impact of accounting theory on decision making and standard setting. Students will develop an ability to critically evaluate current and proposed accounting practices and their impact on decision making within a broad conceptual framework.

Course Description:

The course is not practice-oriented. Instead, it is focused on understanding the various social, economic, and political influences on the development of accounting theory and the impact that such theory has had on financial and organizational decision-making. Students will critically examine the components that shape accounting practices, including standard setting, political implications, economic consequences, and underlying accounting theories.

Drop Course Policy

The deadline for academic withdrawal follows the dates prescribed by Carleton University: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>



The deadline to drop this course with full fee adjustment is January 31st, 2025. The last day to withdraw from full winter courses is March 15th, 2025.

Learning Outcomes: To pass this course, students must demonstrate the ability to:

1. Describe the broad accounting theories that underlie financial accounting and reporting.
2. Analyze the impact of accounting theories on accounting practice, standard setting, and securities markets.
3. Critically examine the underlying social, cultural, economic and political assumptions contributing to the development and adoption spread of accounting processes and standards.
4. Assess the role of accounting in economic and political settings.

Reading(s)/Textbook(s)/Required Materials

Required: Scott, William R; O'Brien, Patricia C. Financial Accounting Theory. Eighth Edition. Prentice Hall/Pearson Education Canada, 2021.

Students may purchase a digital version for \$90.75 or rent it for 180 days for \$68. While a digital version is recommended due to cost efficiency, should students require a print version, the campus bookstore also has a hardcover version available for purchase (New: \$250.75 & Used: \$188.25). There are no restrictions on using second-hand copies of the textbook.

Journal articles, if any, that are required reading will be available on the Macodrum Library website using the Omni search and on Ares reserves.

Students also require a device to participate in in-class interactive sessions.

Course Requirements

The teaching methodology for this course encompasses assigned readings, discussions on accounting theory in practice and research, brief lectures, and interactive exercises that allow the students to practise critical examination, analysis, and problem-solving.

Students are expected to read the assigned material, including any cases and discussion problems, **before each class** and to come to class fully prepared to discuss it. Brief lectures highlight and clarify key concepts, and exercises apply these concepts in class.

The instructor's primary role in this course is to encourage and facilitate student learning by helping students understand and apply key concepts and providing them with regular feedback on their progress. All lecture notes will be available to students, and students have frequent opportunities to obtain feedback on the mastery of material through regular class discussions and graded class exercises, assignments, and examinations. However, it should be emphasized that diligent independent preparation and active participation in class discussions are crucial to developing a

thorough understanding of the course material and performing well in the course.

Grading Scheme:

Class participation	20%
Reflections	15%
- End of class reflections (1% x 10)	
- End of course reflection (5%)	
Midterm Paper	25%
Progress Test Quizzes (2x5%)	10%
Final Exam	30%
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TOTAL	100%

Class Participation

Relevant activities or exercises are conducted periodically in class, some in small groups, and may require brief written reports to be handed in. Please note that marks are not awarded for mere class attendance but require active participation in completing and discussing these assignments. Because of the participative nature of these activities, make-up assignments or compensation for marks lost due to missed classes are not provided for any reason.

End of Class reflections

At the end of each class, students will take some time to reflect on their key concepts and learnings from the day. The written-up reflections, guided by questions at the end of each class, are due the next day after class by 11.59 pm.

These reflections should include multiple stakeholder perspectives, areas of concern identified based on the discussions, and any other noteworthy points they would like to record from the session. The expectations and rubrics will be discussed in the first class. Each reflection document will be returned with brief feedback. Based on the work done in class and the feedback, students will submit a final 2-page reflection on how accounting theory has influenced and been influenced by the contextual factors we discuss in class.

Midterm Paper

For the midterm paper, students will critically analyze a real-world case study provided closer to the midterm date. The case will focus on a complex situation that deals with traditional accounting practices and theoretical frameworks and requires students to critically evaluate the data presented in the case. Students will then write a 15-page, double-spaced essay that delves into various dimensions of accounting theory, socio-political implications, and critical examinations of the issues presented. The expectations and rubrics will be discussed in the first class.

Progress Tests

Two short tests, worth 5% each, will be given in the term to assess students' knowledge of course concepts and progress. The tests will take place during class time.

Final Exam

The final examination is comprehensive, covering the material of the entire course. It is three hours long and consists of short-answer objective questions, short essay questions, and questions requiring interpretation, integration, and application of several concepts. To be eligible to pass the course, a **minimum mark of 50 percent** must be obtained on the final examination.

For examination purposes, students are responsible for all material in the assigned readings, class exercises and activities, and any additional material and interpretation provided by the instructor in class. Supplemental or grade-raising examinations are not available in this course.

The exam will be in-person and written online. The dates for the exam will be released once the exam is scheduled.

The minimum computing requirements for e-proctoring service are as follows:

- Hardware: Laptop
- OS: Windows 10, Mac OS 10.14, Linux Ubuntu 18.04
- Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge

Note: Chromebooks, tablets (Android, iOS, Windows), and smartphones are not supported by CoMaS at this time. You must complete your exams using Windows-based or MacOS computers.

Late Assignments:

It is understood that sometimes students may have certain unforeseen circumstances that prevent them from submitting assignments by the deadline. At this point, the only expectation from students is to communicate these to the instructor and discuss alternative submission possibilities. Assignment extensions or new deadlines will be granted on a case-by-case basis at my discretion.

In the absence of such communication from the student, submissions past the due date will receive a penalty of 5% per day. Reflection submissions not submitted after 2 days of the due date will receive a grade of 0. Midterm papers not submitted after 10 days past the due date will receive a grade of 0.

Deferred Examination

If you wish to defer a **Formal Final Exam**, you – the student – must reach out to the registrar's office with the proper documentation prior to the deadline (please refer to <https://carleton.ca/registrar/deferral/> for dates). Once the request has been put through, your instructor will be notified for their approval. Your final exam will be formally scheduled. If you miss the deadline for applying for a deferral, please reach out to your instructor personally to discuss.

Preparation and Participation:

This course emphasizes active engagement and preparation to foster critical thinking and collaborative learning. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, including textbook chapters and supplementary materials, before each class. Coming prepared allows for meaningful contributions to the classroom environment, where debates, discussions, and conversations are central. Reflection on key themes and questions from the readings is encouraged to ensure students can actively participate in class activities.

Participation is a critical component of the course and will be assessed based on the quality, consistency, and thoughtfulness of contributions. Students are expected to engage respectfully with their peers, challenge ideas constructively, and bring evidence-based insights to discussions. The classroom is a space for diverse perspectives, and active listening and collaboration are as important as speaking. Through consistent preparation and meaningful engagement, students will develop the critical thinking and communication skills essential for professional success in accounting and beyond.

Course Schedule

Week #	Date	Topic	Chapter/ Readings	Assessment Submission
1	Jan 9	Introduction	Chapter 1	-
2	Jan 16	Accounting Under Ideal Conditions & Accountability Model	Chapter 2	Reflection due on Jan 17
3	Jan 23	Accounting theories and Decision Usefulness	Chapter 3	Reflection due on Jan 23
4	Jan 30	Stakeholder theory & Efficient Securities Markets	Miles, S., & Miles, S. (2019). Stakeholder theory and accounting . <i>The Cambridge handbook of stakeholder theory</i> , 173, 271. + Chapter 4	Reflection due on Jan 31
5	Feb 6	Value Relevance of Accounting Information	Chapters 5	Reflection due on Feb 7 Midterm Test #1 (in class)

6	Feb 13	Measurement Approach to Decision Usefulness and Its Applications	Chapters 6 and 7	Reflection due on Feb 14
	Feb 20	Reading Week	Reading Week	Reading Week
7	Feb 27	The Efficient Contracting Approach to Decision Usefulness	Chapter 8	Midterm Paper due at the beginning of class Reflection due on Feb 28
8	Mar 6	Analysis of Conflict	Chapter 9	Reflection due on Mar 7
9	Mar 13	Executive Compensation and Earnings Management	Chapters 10 and 11	Reflection due on Mar 14 Midterm Test #2 (in class)
10	Mar 20	Standard Setting: Economic Issues	Chapters 12	Reflection due on Mar 21
11	Mar 27	Standard Setting: Political Issues	Chapter 13	Reflection due on Mar 28
12	April 8	-		Final reflection document due

Contribution to Learning Goals of the Program ([BCom](#), [BIB](#)):

Program Learning Goal	Competencies Not Covered	Competencies Introduced (only)	Competencies Taught But Not Assessed	Competencies Taught and Assessed
CHECK (X) ONE PER ROW				
BC1 Knowledge <i>Graduates will be skilled in applying foundational business knowledge to appropriate business contexts.</i>				✓
BC2 Collaboration <i>Graduates will be collaborative and effective</i>			✓	

<i>contributors in team environments that respect the experience, expertise and interest of all members.</i>				
BC3 Critical Thinking <i>Graduates will be discerning critical thinkers, able to discuss different viewpoints, challenge biases and assumptions, and draw conclusions based on analysis and evaluation.</i>				✓
BC4 Communication <i>Graduates will be effective and persuasive in their communications.</i>			✓	
BI5 Global Awareness (BIB ONLY) <i>Graduates will be globally-minded.</i>				

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course Sharing Websites

Materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Required calculator in BUSI course examinations.

If you are purchasing a calculator, we recommend any one of the following options: Texas Instruments BA II Plus (including Pro Model), Hewlett Packard HP 12C (including Platinum model), Staples Financial Calculator, Sharp EL-738C & Hewlett Packard HP 10bII

Group work

The Sprott School of Business encourages group assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership, and other group skills. Group assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your professor may assign one or more group tasks/assignments/projects in this course. Before embarking on a specific problem as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a group assignment and not an individual one.

Grading

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

Academic Regulations

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy Accommodation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more

details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are a serious academic offence. Violations of academic integrity – presenting another's ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the degree and will not be tolerated.

Process: If an alleged violation occurs, all relevant documentation will be forwarded to the Dean. If the allegation proves true, the penalties may include; a grade of Failure on the submitted work and/or course; academic probation; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; suspension from full-time studies; suspension from all studies at

Carleton; expulsion from Carleton, amongst others. **For a first offence, at a minimum, the penalty assigned will normally be a zero on the submitted work and at least a minimum full grade reduction of the final course grade. For a second offence, at a minimum, the penalty assigned will normally lead to a suspension from studies.**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy which is available, along with resources for compliance at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Sprott Student Services

The Sprott Undergraduate Student Services Office offers program advising and overall student success support. Our team is available to discuss your academic goals and your program progression plans. We can also work with you to develop strategies for success, including study skills for Business. If you experience any difficulty this term or if you would like to access support, please contact our team at bcom@sprott.carleton.ca or at bib@sprott.carleton.ca.

Centre for Student Academic Support

The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at: carleton.ca/csas.

Important Information:

- Students must always retain a copy of all work that is submitted.
 - All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
 - For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton Cmail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://carleton.ca/its/get-started/new-students-2/>
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