



## BUSI 3204 Digital Marketing

### FALL 2025

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Dora Wang
<b>Email Address</b>	Dora.wang@carleton.ca
<b>Class Times</b>	Thursdays (2:35 – 5:25 pm)
<b>Modality</b>	In-person Please note, if circumstances require it one or more classes MAY be asynchronous or via Zoom/Teams. If so, all class details will be sent to you prior.
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Office Location</b>	6034 Nicol Building
<b>TA Name/Email</b>	TBD

#### Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

Prerequisites & Preclusions: BUSI 2204 or BUSI 2208 with a grade of C- or higher.

#### Course Description/Instructor's Statement

Carleton Calendar Description (Find at <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/BUSI/>)  
Introduction and assessment of key new marketing tools and approaches, including internet marketing, relationship marketing, direct marketing; effective adoption and implementation of these tools and approaches across industries and organizations.

#### Instructor's Description:

Since the introduction of the internet, business, communications, marketing, and society have changed. You will explore and analyze the opportunities this rapidly changing environment has created for both marketers and entrepreneurs – including new ways to build businesses, promote brands, connect with and reach customers, and create customer value. We'll learn how digital marketing efforts are crucial for businesses of every size and budget and learn how to use many of these digital marketing tools popular among businesses. Topics covered include starting an online business, implementing e-commerce infrastructure and logistics, and developing an e-marketing plan. Special attention will be given to marketing tactics such as website design, email marketing, mobile marketing, search engine optimization, building online communities, researching online consumer behavior, nurturing user-generated content and harnessing the power of social media.

#### Learning objectives:

Upon successful course completion, you will be able to:

- Describe what digital marketing and e-commerce are and the specific value they can add to an organization.

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- Explain the basic steps in a typical digital marketing process and their application to real business situations.
  - Understand different digital marketing tools.
  - Understand the skills and careers in digital marketing and e-commerce.
  - Explain how to design and conduct a successful digital marketing campaign.
  - Explain the key components, frameworks, and methods used in digital marketing strategy.
  - Design, execute, document, and critique a comprehensive digital marketing strategy for a real organization.
  - How to write an effective digital marketing strategy plan.

<b>Required/Optional Materials &amp; Prices</b>
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For this course, no textbook is required but weekly readings such like articles, chapters, and cases will be assigned to students. Select cases for classroom sessions will be made available at no cost through the Ares link on the course website. Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

We will also use various technologies and sources.

- Google Analytics: <https://analytics.google.com/analytics/academy/>
  - HubSpot Academy <https://academy.hubspot.com>
  - Google Digital Garage - Fundamentals of Digital Marketing Certification - <https://learndigital.withgoogle.com/digitalgarage>
  - Hootsuite's Student Program - Social Marketing Certification - <https://education.hootsuite.com>
  - Digital Marketing Institute Partner Portal - <https://portal.digitalmarketinginstitute.com/auth/register>
  - Digital Marketing Institute's Definitive GDPR Checklist for Marketers - <https://digitalmarketinginstitute.com/blog/the-definitive-gdpr-checklist-for-marketers>
  - HubSpot Inbound Marketing Program - Inbound Marketing Certification - <https://academy.hubspot.com/courses/inbound-marketing>
  - How Google Search Works - <https://support.google.com/webmasters/answer/70897?hl=en>
  - Definitive Guide to On-Site SEO - <https://backlinko.com/on-page-seo>
  - LinkedIn Learning: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/linkedin-learning/> . Set up your LinkedIn Learning Account.
  - SEMRush - <https://www.semrush.com>
  - The Hoth SEO Audit Tool - <https://www.thehoth.com/seo-audit-tool/>
  - Moz's Beginner's Guide to SEO - <https://moz.com/beginners-guide-to-seo>
  - Moz's Learn SEO - <https://moz.com/learn/seo>
  - HubSpot's Ultimate Guide to SEO 2024 - <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/seo>
  - HubSpot's Ultimate Guide to Content Marketing 2024 - <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/content-marketing>
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- How To Write The Best Google Ads Copy - <https://unbounce.com/ppc/write-best-google-ads-copy/>
- HubSpot's Ultimate Guide to Email Marketing - <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/email-marketing-guide>

## Grading Scheme

### Individual assignments

Certifications & in-class reflections	30
Social media marketing campaign	15
Digital branding challenge	15

### Group assignments

Digital marketing strategy plan report	20
Group presentation	10

### Class engagement

**Total marks 100**

## Important Dates to Note

Certification 1 & In-class reflection 1	September 18 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Certification 2 & In-class reflection 2	October 30 <sup>th</sup> and November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Social media campaign	October 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Digital branding challenge	November 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Group report	November 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Group presentation	November 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Contribution to Class Discussion	Ongoing

University Academic Calendar: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Policies & Accommodations

<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>

<https://carleton.ca/pmc/current-students/academic-accommodations/>



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## Methods of Evaluation

### 1. Group assignments (30%)

#### ***Digital marketing strategy plan report (20%) and presentation (10%)***

This is a group assignment comprising a digital marketing strategy plan and presentation. The

professor will identify some real businesses and/or organizations in Ottawa, and you will work in groups to design a digital marketing strategy that will be implemented within the next ONE year. You should expect to spend a considerable amount of time and effort on the assignment, so plan your time wisely. Declaration of Academic Integrity MUST be completed and uploaded to Brightspace with each group submission. Peer evaluations MUST be carried out and submitted along with each group submission. Students will evaluate each of their group members (in terms of their respective participation and contribution to all team activities). At the completion of the course, the instructor may adjust group assignment marks awarded to individuals based on peer feedback. Group work is an important component of this course given the realities of selling and the business world in general. A group is defined as students who are actively working together (Team size: 6 students, max). A group is NOT two or more students getting together to reduce workload on an assignment. Students in a group must be actively working together towards a common business goal. All groups must be initiated by week 3 of the course.

## **2. Individual assignments**

### ***Certifications and in-class reflections (30%)***

As part of this course, you will be required to earn two sets of certifications, including a) SemRush SEO & content marketing certifications (5%); and b) SemRush social media certification (5%). We will have in-class reflections ("tests") (10%\*2) on the days they are due that cover some fundamentals.

### ***Social media campaign (15%)***

You will be required to create a digital marketing campaign for a real product of your choice. It can be a physical product, a service, a place, etc. The campaign should be rolled out on image-based platforms (e.g., Instagram) or short video-based platforms (e.g., TikTok). A brief report should be submitted to Brightspace along with the digital marketing content (e.g., images or videos), to summarize your rationale of the content design and your plan for the corresponding digital marketing campaign. The content must be newly created and original (you cannot use your works that were created in the past). We will present the content, have discussions, and vote the top 3 designs in class.

### ***A digital branding challenge (15%)***

You will read a case and produce a report that helps tackle the problems/tasks presented in the case. Before that, you will have opportunities to know the case through an in-class digital branding challenge activity. Details to follow in class.

### ***Class Participation (10%)***

Class participation is equivalent to professionals' participation in meetings. It is, therefore, considered important to success in this course. Mere attendance does not count towards full class participation. Effective participation implies active and continuous contribution to class

proceedings on the part of students in the form of engagement in individual/group activities, raising or answering questions, commenting on issues raised by the instructor or other students, or bringing to the attention of the class relevant items of interest from the media or personal experiences. The professor will keep track of student participation at each class. You are also required to keep a record of your own participation.

Please note that individual and group activities will be integrated into lectures and form the basis for your participation grade in addition to in-class engagement. To ensure that you receive credit for in-class contribution, make sure a) to attend all lectures and b) contribute to the class discussion.

### **Late Assignments:**

Late submission will be penalized 5% of the deliverable grade per day (e.g., an assignment graded 8 marks will be penalized 0.4 marks per day). No late deliverables will be accepted after **5 days** past the stated deadline. Missing deliverable will receive a mark of zero, and there is no make-up assignment. Extensions may be granted in the case of exceptional circumstances. You must discuss these circumstances with your instructor at least 24 hours **before** the assignment due date. Please note that discussing the situation is not the same as merely informing your instructor.

Note: Please keep an electronic copy for every exercise and assignment you submit.

### **Preparation and Participation:**

This is an in-person class and you are expected to attend all sessions and arrive on-time. You must come to class prepared by having checked the course Brightspace for any announcements/updates, and having read the required textbook chapter as noted in the class schedule. In-class group/individual activities that occur during class time contribute towards your Contribution grade and **cannot be made up** should you miss a class.

To request a review and re-evaluation of your assignments, please submit your request **within 3 days** of the grade being posted.

### **Deferred Examinations/Assignments:**

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.

In the event that you are unable to write a **midterm, test, or other scheduled assessments** due to extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family, illness, etc.), you must provide appropriate supporting documentation to your professor. Upon review, a deferred test may be offered. Please note that students who do not provide valid documentation or fail to offer a reasonable explanation for missing an assessment will receive a grade of 0% for that test.

**The deferral will be held on Monday, September 29 (for in-class reflection 1) and Nov. 3 (for in-class reflection 2) at 7:15 am.**

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

While every attempt will be made to keep to the schedule listed below, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate modifications throughout the semester.

Please note that additional cases and articles may be added to Brightspace throughout the term to support in-class sessions. All readings will be posted a minimum of 72 hours prior to the in-class session.

Session /Date	Topics	Deadlines & Activities
1 /Sep 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction and course overview</li><li>• Digitization and businesses</li><li>• Skills and careers in digital marketing and e-commerce</li></ul>	Games – Get to know each other Find your group
2 /Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategies in digital marketing<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The customer journey and marketing funnel</li><li>- Understanding your customer – creating personas</li><li>- Company goals and SMART goals</li></ul></li></ul>	Group list & names  Working on the Group Project (Company? STRATEGIC issues?)
3 /Sep 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reach and engage – social media marketing I</li></ul>	Group list & names Working on the Group Project  <b>Due:</b> Certification 1 (Semrush social media certification)
4 /Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reach and engage – social media marketing II</li></ul>	In-class <b>reflection</b> 1 (on social media marketing)
5 /Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital channels and e-commerce I</li></ul>	
6 /Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital channels and e-commerce II</li></ul>	Working on the Group Project Try Shopify
7 /Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social media campaign competition – You present, you vote.</li></ul>	<b>Due:</b> social media campaign (content design & report) (11:59 pm, October 14)
<b>Oct 20-24 Reading Break. No class.</b>		
8 /Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEO (search engine optimization) I</li></ul>	<b>Due:</b> Certification 2 (Semrush SEO & content marketing) (11:59 pm, October 30).

9 /Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEO (search engine optimization) II</li> </ul>	In-class <b>reflection 2</b> (on SEO and content marketing).
10 /Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to measure results and performance - Digital marketing metrics and analytics</li> <li>• Working on the digital branding challenge</li> </ul>	Working on the digital branding challenge in class
11 /Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AI, business applications, &amp; management issues</li> <li>- Mobile marketing, Location-based marketing, Live-streaming services)</li> <li>- Ethical and privacy issues in digital business</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Guest Speaker Session (TBD)</li> </ul>	<b>Due:</b> "Digital branding challenge" report (11:59 pm, Nov. 20)
12 /Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course wrap-up</li> <li>• Group presentations - digital marketing strategy plan</li> </ul>	<b>Due:</b> Presentation slides due by 2:35 pm, Nov. 27.  Reports due 11:59 pm, Nov. 30.  Group presentations.

**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
<b>BC1 Knowledge</b> <i>Graduates will be skilled in applying foundational business knowledge to appropriate business contexts.</i>				✓
<b>BC2 Collaboration</b> <i>Graduates will be collaborative and effective contributors in team environments that respect the experience, expertise and</i>				✓

<i>interest of all members.</i>				
<b>BC3 Critical Thinking</b> <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>				✓
<b>BC4 Communication</b> <i>Graduates will be effective and persuasive in their communications.</i>				✓
<b>BI5 Global Awareness (BIB ONLY)</b> <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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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](https://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](mailto:bcom@sprott.carleton.ca) or at [bib@sprott.carleton.ca](mailto: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](http://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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