



BUSI 2601B – Business Law

WINTER 2026

Instructor	Sam Schwisberg
Email Address	SamSchwisberg@cunet.carleton.ca
Class Times	Monday 6:05 PM to 8:55 PM
Modality	Lectures in Person
Office Hours	MONDAY 4-5 PM; TEXTS accepted at 613 262 2951
Office Location	TBD
TA Name/Email	TBD

Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

Prerequisites: NONE

Preclusions: NONE

Course Description/Instructor's Statement

Carleton Calendar Description: The legal system and legal ordering as they affect those engaged in business activities. Emphasis on the law of tort, law of contract, agency and bailment, business associations (partnerships/proprietorships/corporations) and real estate.

Instructor's Description: Called to the Bar of Ontario in 1983, served as General Counsel in multiple businesses and as a partner in the firm of Talarico & Schwisberg LLP. Obtained LLM in International Business Law, Osgoode Hall Law School.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the implications of the law on business at the operational and strategic levels.
2. Understand why compliance with the law forms an essential part of operating a business.
3. See how that the law forms a key element within the strategic planning process of any well-run business and learn how to plan accordingly.
4. Develop a working understanding of some legal concepts.

Required/Optional Materials & Prices

Legal Guide for the Ontario Entrepreneur, published by Top Hat, 2019, revised 2023 and 2025 ("The text")

Author: Samuel Schwisberg,

Top Hat Textbook ISBN: 978-1-77412-144-3

Top Hat 1 Semester Subscription ISBN: 978-0-9866151-0-8

This is a digital book ordered from Top Hat

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- **PRICE \$** The cost of the textbook *Legal Guide for the Ontario Entrepreneur* is \$45.00, and the *Top Hat Classroom One Semester Subscription* is \$33.00. That is a total of \$78.00 excluding taxes.

Grading Scheme

Participation	10
Quiz 1	10
Quiz 2	20
Quiz 3	20
Final Exam	40
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TOTAL	100%

Important Dates to Note

Quiz 1	JAN 19, 2026
Quiz 2	FEB 9, 2026
Quiz 3	MARCH 16 2026
Deferred Quiz (if necessary)	MARCH 23 2026
Participation	ONGOING – SEE SCHEDULE AND TEXTBOOK

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

Policies & Accommodations

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

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



Evaluation – Important PLEASE READ

Participation: Two Ways to Earn Ten Participation Marks

1. **Textbook Questions**: Answer the questions in Top Hat: ***Each chapter of the text contains several questions worth 0.2 participation marks each.*** They must be answered before the deadline stated in the text. Top Hat tracks this and allocates the marks. Incorrect answers count! Just answering the textbook questions earns you participation marks. You can earn all 10 participation marks by simply doing this in the textbook. Sorry, but I cannot accept answers emailed or texted to me. There are simply too many students in the class for that. You must answer the questions in the textbook, and the software automatically tracks your participation marks.
2. **Participation Sessions**: There will be optional participation sessions following designated lectures for those students who would rather earn participation marks this way or who prefer not to acquire the textbook. THEY ARE NOTED IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE. Note that you will be at a disadvantage if you do not acquire the textbook, but if you decide not to, you can earn all 10 participation marks through this second option. You may also earn marks through a combination of this method or answering the textbook questions, but the maximum participation mark is 10. There are 10 designated participation sessions. Please see the course schedule below.

Quizzes

1. There are 3 quizzes. The first one is worth 10% and will be composed of 20 multiple choice questions worth 0.5 marks each. You will have one hour to complete it.
2. The second 2 quizzes are worth 20 marks each and will comprise 40 questions, each worth 0.5 marks. You will have 1.5 hours to complete each quiz.
3. You need only bring an HB pencil and a sharpener to each quiz.
4. Only one student at a time will be permitted to leave the examination for a bathroom break. The duration of the quizzes has been kept short for that purpose, among others, owing regrettably to significant attempts in the past at cheating during bathroom breaks in past midterm examinations. This policy will be strictly enforced.
5. **Missed Quizzes**. If you miss one quiz, I will assume that you had a good reason. You will automatically qualify to write a ***deferred quiz on March 23, 2026.*** However, if you will miss a second quiz, it must only be for good and documented reason -illness, and funerals for close relatives would qualify, but not travel plans or marriage invitations. Please refer to the section that follows entitled **Deferred Examinations/Assignments.**

Final Examination.

1. The final examination, worth 40% of your final grade, will cover the entirety of the course, and will be held during the formal examination period.
2. The rules governing a deferral, if necessary, are summarized in the next section.
3. It will comprise 80 multiple-choice questions worth 0.5 marks each and you will have 3 hours to complete it.
4. All you will need is an HP pencil and a pencil sharpener.

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 quiz due to extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family, illness, etc.), you are not required to provide supporting documentation to your professor the first time, but you must provide appropriate supporting documentation to your professor if you miss a second quiz. 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 more than one assessment will receive a grade of 0% for that quiz.

Preparation:

Students should study the textbook to prepare for examinations but focus on the material and issues contained in the slides used during lectures.

Class Questions by Raising Hand or Texting:

Class questions are encouraged and may be asked directly by raising a hand to call attention to oneself or texted to me during the "Vexed? Why Not Text?" designated interludes during the lecture. During specified breaks, I feature segments I call "Vexed? Why not Text?" I will, during these breaks, invite students to text me questions or comments that I will read out loud and address. I may not be able to answer all texts in class if there are too many, but I will answer them in due course.

Course Schedule

LECTURE 1 - JAN 5 - FOUNDATIONS OF LAW

6:05PM **Lecture**

7:45 PM **First Optional Participation Session:** informal introductions and chat

Readings: Chapter 1 of the Text and slides and notes posted under Lecture 1

LECTURE 2 - JAN 12 - FROM PHILOSOPHY TO THE CANADIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

6:05 PM: **Lecture**

7:45 PM: **Second Optional Participation Session:** Questions, discussions of issues, preparation for Quiz #1

Readings: Slides and any notes posted under Lecture 2 and Chapter 2 of the Text

LECTURE 3 – JAN 19 - QUIZ #1 (10%)

6:05 PM **QUIZ (1 hour plus set up time and break)**

7:45 PM **Third Optional Participation Session: Quiz discussion**

LECTURE 4 - JAN 26 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

6:05 PM **Lecture**

7:45 PM **Fourth Optional Participation Session. – mock trial will require witnesses, lawyers, and jury. I will be the judge.**

Readings: Slides and notes posted under Lecture 4 and Chapter 3 of the Text

LECTURE 5 – FEB 2 - CONTRACTS AND CONTRACT DISPUTES

6:05 PM: **Lecture for the duration of the class which includes some quiz preparation**

Readings: Slides and any notes posted for Lecture 5 and Chapters 4 and 5 of the Text

LECTURE 6 – FEB 9 – QUIZ #2 (20%)

6:05 PM **QUIZ (1.5 hours plus set up time and break)**

8:15 PM **Fifth Optional Participation Session: Quiz discussion**

THERE IS NO CLASS ON FEBRUARY 16

LECTURE 7 – FEB 23 – TORTS

6:05 PM: **Lecture**

7:45 PM: **Sixth Optional Participation Session: Questions and Discussion.**

Readings: Slides and any notes posted for Lecture 7 and Chapter 6 of the Text.

LECTURE 8 – MARCH 2 – STRUCTURING BUSINESS

6:05 PM: **Lecture**

7:45 PM: **Seventh Optional Participation Session: Questions and Discussion**

Readings: Slides and any notes posted for Lecture 8 and Chapter 7 of the Text

LECTURE 9 – MARCH 9 - A CLOSER LOOK AT CORPORATIONS

6:05 PM **Lecture**

7:45 PM **Eight Optional Participation Session; Mock Board of Directors Meeting**

Readings: Slides and any notes posted under Lecture 9, and Chapter 8 of the Text

LECTURE 10 - – MARCH 16 - QUIZ #3 (20%)

6:05 PM **QUIZ (1.5 hours plus set up time and break)**

8:15 PM **Ninth Optional Participation Session: Quiz discussion**

LECTURE 11 – MARCH 23 - THE REGULATION OF BUSINESS / DEFERRED QUIZZES IF APPLICABLE

6:05 PM **Lecture**

7:30 PM **Deferred Quizzes**

Readings: Slides and notes posted for lecture 11 and Chapter 9 of the Text.

LECTURE 12- MARCH 30 - PROPERTY LAW

6:05 PM **Lecture**

8:15 PM **Tenth Optional Participation Session: Mock Real Estate Closing**

Readings: Slides and notes posted for lecture 12 and Chapter 10 of the Text

LECTURE 13 – APRIL 6 - DEBT FINANCING, INSOLVENCY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6:05 PM **Lecture** **for the duration of the class**

Readings: Slides and notes posted for lecture 13 and Chapter 11 of the Text.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Since, apart from the mark for participation, your evaluation is based primarily on in person multiple choice questions, the opportunity to use AI for evaluated work is limited. However, students may use generative-AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) as thought partners and assistants to respond to the questions in the textbook. Use these tools responsibly. That is, verify outputs, apply your own judgment, and cite AI use when relevant. The goal is not to outwit AI but to elevate your learning through it. You can access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#). Additional resources are also available on Carleton's [Artificial Intelligence Hub](#).

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>				X
BC2 Collaboration <i>Graduates will be collaborative and effective contributors in team environments that respect the</i>	X			

<i>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>				X
BC4 Communication <i>Graduates will be effective and persuasive in their communications.</i>			X	
BI5 Global Awareness (BIB ONLY) <i>Graduates will be globally minded.</i>				X

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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