



Accounting Relevance and Influence

BUSI 4003A

Winter 2026

Instructor	Hilary Becker, Ph.D., CPA, CGA
Email Address	hilarybecker@cunet.carleton.ca
Class Times	Wednesday 11:35 – 2:25PM
Modality	In Person
Office Hours	Thursday 11:00-12:00, (or by appt.)
Office Location	NI6032
TA Name/Email	
	* Modality: 36_ hours synchronous in person

Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

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

Prerequisite(s): BUSI 2002 and BUSI 2501 and STAT 2601 with a grade of C- or higher in each.

The School of Business enforces all prerequisites

Course Description/Instructor's Statement

Course Calendar description from the [2023/2024 University calendar](#):

Course Description: 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.

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.

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.

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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.

Required/Optional Materials & Prices

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

Students may rent it for 180 days for \$67.99 (Link Below). 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: \$246 & Used: \$188.25).

<https://www.pearson.com/en-ca/subject-catalog/p/financial-accounting-theory/P200000002635/9780137595211>

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.

Textbook (s) available at the Campus Store in Nideyinàn or order online for pick up:
<https://carletonshop.ca/Course/term>

Grading Scheme

Project Assignment – report (Due: April 5)	15%
Class Activities/Participation/Reflection	15%
Mid-Term Examination (February 25)	30%
Final Examination	<u>40%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Project Assignment. The project assignment comprises a comprehensive written report examining a particular emerging issue/exposure drafts completed in groups of four-five students. The report should be 12 – 15 pages in length, double spaced, excluding major tables, appendices, and preliminary matter, and be professional in its style and format. The reports are evaluated for both content and style. In writing the report, assume the role of independent management consultants analyzing the issues and implications of the topic for different stakeholders.

Class Activities/Participation. Relevant activities or exercises are conducted periodically in class, some of them in small groups, and require brief reports to be submitted. Please note that marks are not awarded for mere class attendance, but they 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. Suggested solutions to participative class assignments are discussed in class. The course will also include reflections on how the material relates to real events and your perspectives.

Mid-Term Examination. The mid-term examination on February 25, 2026. The midterm will be in-class is approximately two hours in length and consists of short-answer objective questions, short essay questions, and problems requiring some interpretation and integration of material. The course will use e-proctoring for the midterm exam.

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

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

Requests for deferred final examinations must be directed to the Office of Registerial Services for assessment.

Policies & Accommodations

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

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



Stay updated with important notifications and announcements from Carleton University, by downloading the Carleton University App!

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances due to extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family, illness, etc.), you must provide appropriate supporting documentation to your professor

Note: Exams will be e-proctored using the Carleton e-proctoring system.

The minimum computing requirements 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. You must complete your exams using Windows-based or MacOS computers.

Deferred In-Class Quizzes/Tests or Midterms:

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, *March 2* at 7:15am.

Deferred final exams:

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.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

This is a human-centered course. In this course, evaluation focuses on what you can do *without* AI assistance. While you are welcome to use AI tools to explore ideas, study, or clarify concepts, all submitted work must represent your independent thinking and original effort. Use AI for learning, not for producing graded submissions. Your understanding and reasoning—not AI output—will form the basis of assessment. Using AI for graded submissions constitutes an academic integrity violation.

Preparation and Participation:

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Teaching methodology for this course encompasses assigned readings, brief lectures, discussions, and problem-solving exercises and cases. Students are expected to read the assigned material, including the cases and discussion problems **before each class** and to come to class fully prepared to discuss them. Brief lectures are utilized to highlight and clarify key concepts, and example cases and applications are discussed in class to apply these concepts.

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

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter	Problems (TBA)
Jan 7	Introduction	1	
Jan 14	Accounting Under Ideal Conditions & Accountability Model	2	
Jan 21	Types of accounting theory	3	
Jan 28	Efficient Securities Markets	4 & reading*	
Feb 4	Value Relevance of Accounting Information	5	
Feb 11	Measurement Approach to Decision Usefulness and Its Applications	6 and 7	
	Reading Week		
Feb 25	Midterm (covering Chapter 1-7)		
Mar 4	The Efficient Contracting Approach to Decision Usefulness	8	
Mar 11	Analysis of Conflict	9	
Mar 18	Executive Compensation and Earnings Management	10 and 11	
Mar 25	Standard Setting: Economic Issues	12	
Apr 1	Standard Setting: Political Issues	13	
	Final Report Due: Sunday, April 5		

* Miles, S., & Miles, S. (2019). Stakeholder theory and accounting. The Cambridge handbook of stakeholder theory, 173, 271.

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
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 experience, expertise and interest of all members.</i>			(X)	

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>				

***Refer to Academic Calendar for dates University Closed Dates and Holidays**
<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

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 anyone 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: [Pregnancy Academic Accommodation Information - Equity and Inclusive Communities](#)

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: [Academic Regulations for Students with Religious Obligations < Carleton University](#)

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: [Sexual Violence Prevention & Survivor Support - Equity and Inclusive Communities](#)

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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