BUSI5802P: Business Ethics
Winter 2026

Instructor	Dr. Paul Hope
Email Address	pauljhope@cunet.carleton.ca
Class Times	*February 20 & 21 9am to 5pm*
Modality	In person
Office Hours	
Office Location	
TA Name/Email	

Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for BUSI 5001.

Course Description/Instructor's Statement

Carleton Calendar Description

Impact of corporate decisions on society. Models and standards of business ethics and corporate social responsibility (CSR). Methods of measuring and reporting. The rise of corporate power, stakeholder analysis, corporate governance, sustainability, national and international pressures on CSR.

Instructor's Description:
This course examines business ethics from the standpoint of ethical decision-making, ethical standards in business, and organizational sustainability. It analyzes both organizational and individual decision-making models when facing ethical dilemmas.

The course emphasizes that ethics is central to organizational performance and management, as failures in this area can have serious consequences. Students will explore personal and organizational values; examine current ethical issues including corporate social responsibility and generative artificial intelligence, and; understand ethics as a practical discipline rooted in everyday activities

Course Learning Objectives:
1. Develop a practical understanding of business ethics and business and societal norms
2. Interpret relevant ethical decision criteria to evaluate and apply ethical decision-making.
3. Apply organizational techniques to build a strong ethical culture through leadership
4. Understand governance and ethical culture
5. Understand how to develop and evaluate an ethics program
6. Analyze and critique a code of ethics and its components

7. Understand the role of a Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer (CECO)
8. Recognize and synthesize ethical dilemmas associated with business practices and apply ethical principles to deal with them effectively.

Required/Optional Materials & Prices

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course.

Grading Scheme

Graded Discussions (4 x10% each)	40
Post Course Reflection	10
Final Assignment	40
Group and Class Participation	10
TOTAL	100%

Important Dates to Note

Graded Discussions	February 20th & 21st, 2026
Post Course Reflection	March 1st, 2026
Final Assignment	March 1st, 2026
Group and Class Participation	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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Additional Information on Deliverables and Grading

Each component of your grade will be assigned a percentage score. Your final course grade will be a weighted average of each of these components.

- **Graded Discussions**: Using a "1-2-4-All" approach, students engage simultaneously in generating questions, ideas, and suggestions in response to the presentation of an issue, problem or proposal. Students start alone, then discuss in groups of two to four, and finally discuss as a class. During class, each student will be asked to submit the silent self-reflection component for grading *before* discussion is launched in groups and class. A template will be

provided to help you complete this task.

- **Post Course Reflection**: The final reflection paper is meant to have you reflect on your initial understanding of business ethics and how that understanding evolved as you progressed through the course. The paper should be completed as close to the last class as possible. It is meant as an individual activity and should not be shared with others. It must contain specific details of what you learned or unlearned and some commentary to put that learning in the context of your work or experience. A template will be provided to help you complete this task.

- **Final Assignment:** The setting for this assignment may be real or fictitious (in the sense that you need not examine your own organization). That said, an organization would like to establish a code of ethics, or if it already has a code of ethics it would like to update it. Because you have recently taken a course on business ethics, you are asked to submit a report containing a draft code for discussion by senior executives, or a set of suggested improvements to the existing code of ethics, depending on the circumstances. Your report should contain a supporting rationale for your code or suggested improvements, propose actionable implementation strategies, and briefly touch on any anticipated organizational changes required, implementation challenges, and any issues related to the code of ethics requiring further attention. A template will be provided to help you complete this task.

- **Group and Class Participation:** While attendance is a pre-requisite to participation, it is the quality, not the quantity, of contribution that earns the grades. It is also recognized that on some days there may be insufficient time to call upon each student who wishes to speak. Any demonstration of desire to participate will also be considered in the overall assessment of class contribution. Participation will be assessed according to demonstrated preparation, interpersonal skills, and engagement.

Late Assignments:

To ensure fairness for all students, penalties will be applied to late assignments: Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in an initial penalty of five (5) percentage points, followed by an additional (2) percentage points per day thereafter. For example, an assignment that would normally merit a grade of 80% would receive a grade of 75% if submitted after the deadline on the due date, 73% if submitted the following day, and so on. Requests for extension will be considered in cases of illness, family emergency, or other exceptional circumstances.

Preparation and Participation:

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions by having gained familiarity with recommended readings and reflected on them. Further, students are expected to encourage their colleagues and maintain a positive learning environment, build on earlier comments without repeating, listen attentively to speakers, and respect differences of opinion.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Although this is a human-centred course, students are expected to use generative-AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) as thought partners and assistants to enhance the quality of their work. Assignments will be graded assuming students had full access to AI support. Use these tools responsibly. That is, verify outputs and correct them as needed. Apply your own judgment, and cite AI use when relevant. Elevate your learning through the use of AI rather than making yourself

replacable by a "clanker." 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.

Contribution to Program Learning Goals (MBA):

MBA Learning Goal	Not Covered	Introduced	Taught but Not Assessed	Taught and Assessed
MB1 Leadership and Collaboration *Graduates will be equipped for leadership and collaboration.*			✔	
MB2 Communication *Graduates will be effective communicators*			✔	
MB3 Critical Thinking and Problem Solving *Graduates will be skilled in critical thinking and problem solving.*				✔
MB4 Functional Knowledge *Graduates will have functional knowledge of all areas of business.*			✔	
MB5 Global Business *Graduates will have an appreciation of the global environment of business.*				✔
MB6 Ethical Reasoning *Graduates will be skilled in ethical reasoning and decision-making.*				✔

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	AM/PM	Topic/Agenda	Pre-class Prep
1	AM	ETHICS AND DECISION-MAKING • Business values and ethics • Ethical awareness • Frameworks for ethical	Read the presentation for Module 1 *"Ethics and Decision-making"* carefully and use suggested references to clarify or examine points in greater

		decision-making • Ethical standards • Ethical decision-making process Graded Discussion: Corporate Social Responsibility	detail. You will be graded *in part* on your understanding of the points raised in the presentation when you submit your graded discussions. Your understanding will also be assessed as *part* of your group and class participation grade.
1	PM	ORGANIZATIONAL ETHICS • Leadership • Culture and governance Graded Discussion: "Right versus Right" Dilemmas	Read the presentation for Module 2 *"Organizational Ethics"* carefully and use suggested references to clarify or examine points in greater detail. You will be graded *in part* on your understanding of the points raised in the presentation when you submit your graded discussions. Your understanding will also be assessed as *part* of your group and class participation grade.
2	AM	INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ETHICS • Ethics Program Development, Implementation and Assessment • Code of ethics implementation Graded Discussion: Ethics of an Ethics Program	Read the presentation for Module 3 "Institutionalization of Ethics" carefully and use suggested references to clarify or examine points in greater detail. You will be graded *in part* on your understanding of the points raised in the presentation when you submit your graded discussions. Your understanding will also be assessed as *part* of your group and class participation grade.
2	PM	APPLICATION OF ETHICS IN BUSINESS • Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer (CECO) Role, Challenges and Organizational Need • Ethical issues in business • Prevention and recovery • Ethical issues with technology in business Graded Discussion: Can AI be trusted to make ethical decisions?	Read the presentation for Module 4 "Application of Ethics in Business" carefully and use suggested references to clarify or examine points in greater detail. You will be graded *in part* on your understanding of the points raised in the presentation when you submit your graded discussions. Your understanding will also be assessed as *part* of your group and class participation grade.

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).

Recommended Calculator for 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. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership and other group skills. Group assignments are also an effective way to learn integrative skills for putting together a complex task. Your professor may assign one or more group tasks, assignments, or 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.

Peer Evaluation for Group Work

To deter social loafing and ensure fairness in grading, you will be asked to assess the contribution of your fellow group members. This information will be used when assigning the grade for the final project. The procedure is as follows: Each student should take 100 points and allocate those points to the various members of the group (including him/her/themself) to reflect the contributions made by each member. For instance, if there are four members in a group and everyone contributed equally, each individual would receive 25 points. Conversely, if an individual contributed relatively little, the remaining group members might allocate few points to that member. To ensure that these peer evaluation scores are reasonable and free from personal bias, you will be asked to provide a detailed written explanation for your point allocation.

Letter Grades:

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	F = Below 50
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56	
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52	

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:
https://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/gradregulations/

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**
  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 Obligations**
  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

- **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. 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: Sexual Violence Prevention & Survivor Support - Equity and Inclusive Communities

- **Student Activities**
  Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, to both the individual student and the university, that result from participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will 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: https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/

Academic Integrity:

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—are a serious academic offence, weaken the quality of the degree, and will not be tolerated. 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. 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/

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: https://carleton.ca/csas/

Other 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 can do so by visiting https://carleton.ca/its/get-started/new-students-2/