BUSI 2601 A: Business Law

Fall 2026

Instructor	Sam Schwisberg
Email Address	SamSchwisber@cunet.carleton.ca
Class Times	Wednesdays 6:05 PM to 8:55 PM
Modality	In-person
Office Hours	As mutually agreed with the student
Office Location	Virtual or by phone
TA Name/Email	5 TAs will be assigned to 10 tutorial groups (2 for each TA)

Pre-Requisites & Preclusions:

https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/courses/BUSI/

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 Course Description: The course begins with a broad overview of Canada's legal system, beginning with its cultural, historical and philosophical bases, moves on to its constitutional and political framework and finally lands on topics especially relevant to the business students including dispute resolution, international business law issues, and current legal concerns regarding AI, social medial and cryptocurrencies.

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.

Materials & Prices

AACSB ACCREDITED

Mandatory Textbook:

Legal Guide for the Ontario Entrepreneur, published by Top Hat, 2019, revised 2026 ("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 or through the Carleton Bookstore

PRICE The cost of the textbook *Legal Guide for the Ontario Entrepreneur* is $54.00, and the *Top Hat Classroom One Semester Subscription* is $39.99. That is a total of $93.99 excluding taxes.

Grading Scheme

Assignments in the text	20%
Tutorial Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Examination	40%
TOTAL	100%

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!

Preparation and Participation:

Assignments in the textbook are designed to help students think about the issues and will be the subject of discussion at the tutorials. There will be 4 short assignments, worth up to 5 marks each, for a total of 20 marks, and your answers will be the subject of discussion at the following tutorial. Answers are to be recorded in the textbook in the space provided and will be digitally accessible to TAs for grading.

Students will be assigned to one of 10 tutorial groups each comprised of about 30 students. There will be 4 tutorials for each group, and each tutorial will be worth 2.5 participation marks for a maximum of 10 marks. Participation in a tutorial may also merit an increase in a relevant assignment grade but

will not cause a student to lose a mark achieved in an assignment.

If you miss a tutorial, there will be an opportunity to make up for the lost participation marks by assuming role in some of the in-lecture exercises that will be held (for example, a mock trial, mock meeting of a board of directors and a mock contract negotiation)

The midterm and the final examination will be exclusively multiple choice. Practice questions will be provided during the term and will be discussed in the tutorials. They will comprise 60 and 80 questions respectively and **will be in person. The midterms will be held in the lecture room.** Scantrons will be used so students must bring a pencil to the examinations.

Preparation for Midterm and Final Examinations:

Students should study the textbook to prepare for examinations but focus on the material and issues contained in the slides used during lectures. They should also attempt to answer the practice questions to be assigned from time to time for discussion in the tutorials.

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 – SEPT 9 - FOUNDATIONS OF LAW

6:05PM Lecture

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

LECTURE 2 – SEPT 16 - FROM PHILOSOPHY TO THE CANADIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

6:05 PM: Lecture

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

LECTURE 3 – SEPT 23 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

6:05 PM: Lecture

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

LECTURE 4 - SEPT 30 - CONTRACTS AND CONTRACT DISPUTES

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 1 to 5 (TAs and rooms to be assigned).

LECTURE 5 – OCT 7 - TORTS

6:05 PM: Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 6 to 10 (TAs and rooms to be assigned).

LECTURE 6 – OCT 14 – STRUCTURING BUSINESS

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 1 to 5 (TAs and rooms to be assigned).

LECTURE 7 – OCT 21 – A CLOSER LOOK AT CORPORATIONS

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 6 to 10 (TAs and rooms to be assigned).

OCTOBER 28: Fall Beak

THERE IS NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 28

NOV 4: MIDTERM

There will be 60 questions, and the duration of the midterm examination will be 90 minutes. Each question is worth 0.5% of your final grade.

LECTURE 8 - NOV 11 - THE REGULATION OF BUSINESS

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 1 to 5 (TAs and rooms to be assigned)

LECTURE 9 – NOV 18 - PROPERTY LAW

6:05 PM Lecture

Readings: Slides and notes posted for Lecture 9 and Chapter 9 of the Text

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 6 to 10 (TAs and rooms to be assigned)

LECTURE 10 – NOV 25 - DEBT FINANCING, INSOLVENCY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 1 to 5 (TAs and rooms to be assigned)

LECTURE 11 – DEC 2 – LEGAL CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

6:05 PM Lecture

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

7:30 PM Tutorials for Groups 6 to 10 (TAs and rooms to be assigned)

LECTURE 12 – DEC 9 – LAW IN A BRAVE NEW WORLD

6:05 PM Lecture

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

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

Late Assignments:

Late textbook assignments will not be accepted and will be graded 0/5.

Midterm and Final Exam

The midterm is mandatory and missing it will only be permitted in case of illness, or serious emergencies. Travel plans and attending a wedding in distant locations are not valid reasons for missing the midterm examination.

e-Proctoring

If e-Proctoring is implemented for digital exams, please note that tests and examinations in this course will use a mandatory remote proctoring service provided by Scheduling and Examination Services. You can find more information at https://carleton.ca/ses/e-proctoring/ .

Students are responsible for ensuring that the application is working properly on your computer during the exam. Failure to ensure proper functioning of CoMaS will constitute a violation of the exam rules and may be grounds for an allegation that you have violated the Academic Integrity Policy.

The minimum computing requirements for this service are as follows:

Hardware: Desktop, or Laptop

OS: Windows 10 or higher, Mac OS 10.14 or higher

Internet Browser: Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge

Internet Connection (High-Speed Internet Connection Recommended)

Webcam (HD resolution recommended)

Note: Tablets, Chromebooks, Smartphones and Windows-based tablets are not supported at this time.

Deferred In-Class Tests:

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 test will be held on Monday, November 23, 2026, 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 an AI-forward 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, 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.**Contribution to Learning Goals of the Program** (BCom, BIB):

The purpose of this section is to explicitly address the connection between individual courses and program-level learning goals. We ask that you consider whether and how each of the six program-level learning goals is addressed in your course. For each learning goal, choose one of the following options.

Not Covered *Learning goal is not addressed in the course or addressed only minimally.*

Introduced *Course introduces content related to the learning goal but does not focus on it OR activities included in the course serve to cultivate this skill incidentally.*

Taught but not Assessed *Course contributes explicitly and meaningfully to student achievement of the learning goal but is not the point where competency is formally assessed.*

Taught and Assessed *Select this option if the course has been designated by the UG CRC as the point where achievement of the learning goal will be assessed.*

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 *Graduates will be skilled in applying foundational business knowledge to appropriate business contexts.*				**X**
BC2 Collaboration *Graduates will be collaborative and effective*	**X**			

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

Recommended Calculator for 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).

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, please review the pregnancy academic accommodation process.

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, please review the religious academic accommodation process.

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. For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre website.

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 where 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 the Equity and Inclusive Communities website.

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. For more details, see the Senate Policy on Accommodation for Student Activities (PDF, 25 KB).

Academic Consideration for Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances

Due to medical and other extenuating circumstances, students may occasionally be unable to fulfil the academic requirements of their course(s) in a timely manner. The university supports the academic development of students and aims to provide a fair environment for students to succeed academically. Medical and/or other extenuating circumstances are circumstances that are beyond a student's control, have a significant impact on the student's capacity to meet their academic obligations, and could not have reasonably been prevented. Students may request Academic Consideration for Coursework or Other Academic Deliverable. For further information please review the Procedure for Academic Consideration and the FAQ page.

Scheduling and Examination Support

Scheduling and Examination Services provides various supports for both in-term and end-of-term tests and exams. Details can be found on the Exam Support website.

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 academicadvising@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/