

## Business & Environmental Sustainability

BUSI 3119A  
FALL 2024

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	30 minutes Before & After class
<b>TA:</b>	TBA
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA
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<b>Modality:</b>	IN-PERSON
<b>Class Times:</b>	Tuesdays 8:35am – 11:25am

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### Course Calendar Description (from the [2024/2025 University Calendar](#))

Examining concepts of environmental sustainability within the business context. Exploring the complex interdependency between organizations, society and the natural environment.

#### Pre-requisites:

Third year standing.

This course is meant to be interdisciplinary in nature, and so is open to students from all disciplines and terms. However, because of the advanced nature of the content, students outside of the Sprott school or those within their first two years of studies, need the permission of Sprott School of Business to enroll in this course

#### Drop Course Policy

The deadline for academic withdrawal follows the dates prescribed by Carleton University: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Course Description

This course discusses and analyzes the concept of sustainability within a business and management setting. It will analyze the complex relationship between business and the environment, and it will explore the nature of business in today's global context where addressing environmental and social issues is becoming increasingly important. Furthermore, it aims to discuss how the talents of business might be used to solve world's environmental and social problems towards developing a sustainable economy.

The course will be conducted in a seminar setting rather than being based on lectures. It will be focused around presentations and case analyses by you, experiential learning exercises and an applied project, and class discussions arising from the assigned readings, cases, debates, simulations, and multimedia content.

## Course Objectives

This is an introductory course on sustainability management. It covers the basic principles of sustainability in businesses and its implications on society and environment. It examines the effects of both the internal and external business environment on managerial choices for the structuring of organizations to fulfill its purpose and its role in enhancing societal, environmental and economic value.

## Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Assess sustainability from the organizational and stakeholder perspectives
2. Acquire knowledge of a range of sustainability topics and immerse in the current discussions on issues related to business, social and environmental sustainability
3. Develop critical thinking skills to solve business and sustainability issues
4. Develop an understanding of sustainable business practices through the use of case studies and current business examples
5. Apply design thinking principles to address organizational challenges
6. Enhance your ability to collaborate with peers, and co-create the emergent understanding of complex issues
7. Enhance your ability to reflect on your learning, and communicate effectively

## Reading(s)/Textbook(s):

Weekly readings, case studies and other assigned readings can be downloaded without any charges from Ares link on Brightspace. It is also highly recommended that you read professional publications related to sustainability, for example:

Green Biz – <http://www.greenbiz.com>

Network for Business Sustainability - <http://nbs.net/members/signup>

Triple Pundit - <http://www.triplepundit.com/newsletter/>

Global Compact bulletin - <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/bulletin>

## Corporate Knights - [Corporate Knights](#)

You will need access to a computer/laptop during the class to be able to participate in team discussions and in-class activities and for uploading assignments to Brightspace. All work in class will be in teams, and if required laptops can be taken on loan from ITS services.

In order to stay updated with important notifications and announcements from Carleton University, please download the Carleton University App. This will ensure you receive timely information regarding your courses and other university-related updates throughout the term.

### **Criteria for Evaluation and Grading:**

The evaluation will be based on weekly case analysis worksheet (to be completed individually prior to class), case analyses/reports, and presentation slides. Additionally, there will be an individual simulation (mid semester), an individual case analysis (end of semester), and an applied team project (end of semester). There are no midterm or final exams for this course. The individual case analysis worksheets are available on Brightspace, and the grading rubric for the team (and final individual case) reports and for team presentations are also available on Brightspace. Team case reports are due at the beginning of class (except for Week 2) and need to be uploaded to Brightspace before class commences. The presenting teams also need to upload their powerpoint slides or other presentation material to Brightspace before class commences. Each component of the grade will be assigned a score, and the final course grade will be a weighted average of each of these components. All deliverables are to be submitted online via Brightspace. In case of technical difficulties, you can email me the deliverable directly at [sujit.sur@carleton.ca](mailto:sujit.sur@carleton.ca) using your official Carleton email ID to ensure synchronized date and time stamp of receipt at my end.

### **Late Penalties:**

For any assignment that is late there is a 10% penalty for each calendar day (or part thereof) late. For example, a 9/10 grade becomes 8/10 if submitted after the deadline but less than 24 hours late; a 9/10 grade becomes 7/10 if submitted more than 24 hours late but less than 48 hours late; and so on.

### **Class Discussions and Contributions to Peer Learning:**

You are encouraged to actively participate in all classes by being adequately prepared, i.e., by completing the weekly readings and individual case analysis worksheet before coming to class. Regular attendance, participation and contribution from all class members is essential for effective discussion. It is student contribution to peer learning that constitutes a contribution, including encouraging colleagues, building on earlier

comments without repeating, listening attentively to speakers and being respectful of differences of opinion.

While attendance is a pre-requisite to participation, it is the quality, not the quantity, of remarks that earns the grades. Meaningful contribution requires that you share with your peers something useful that might otherwise have gone unnoticed ensures that you co-create something useful collectively. The use of electronic devices is necessary in this class, but please be mindful not to distract your colleagues (e.g., turn off unnecessary sounds, mute your mic/sound when appropriate, etc.).

### **Teams:**

You will be required to form teams of a maximum of 5 students during the first class itself. The team must consist of a minimum of 3 students and depending on class size, *exceptionally* a team of 6 may be permitted or a student without a team may be assigned to a team. It is strongly recommended that you seek diversified and complementary skill sets in your prospective team partners, ideally students from different academic concentrations with varied work experiences and backgrounds. As far possible, try and form an interdisciplinary team, so that you can maximize the learning potential from the different disciplines. Once formed, these teams will collectively carry out team assignments and presentations throughout the semester without any further changes.

You are responsible for selecting your team partners and the team is expected to self-govern to ensure the quality of all deliverables, independently resolving any conflicts within the team. The team assignments provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership and other team skills. You will be asked to evaluate the individual contributions of the other team members to all of the team presentations, recognizing that to consider one team member as contributing significantly more, requires that another team member be identified as contributing less (details of peer assessment will be provided in later in the semester).

### **Policy for Team Presentations:**

All team members must participate in the presentations. Any student unable to do so because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control must contact me via email prior to the start of the class for which the presentation is scheduled. I may allow an alternative individual assignment at my discretion, or switch the presentation sequence with another team, however the entire team needs to be in agreement about the change. Otherwise, the other team members must make the entire presentation as scheduled.

**Evaluation and Grading Scheme:** The course will have a weighted evaluation of individual-work and teamwork as follows:

<b>Individual earned grades</b>	
Individual weekly case worksheets	10%
Individual Net Zero simulation outcome	10%
Individual Circular Economy: Fashion Forward outcome	5%
Peer evaluation (Team’s and professor’s assessment of contribution to team)	10%
Individual case analysis (final assignment)	15%
<b>Team earned grades</b>	
Team case reports & presentations	20%
In-class activities	10%
Team simulation (En-Roads & Circular Economy) result and report	5%
Team final project	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: You need to pass the final assignment to pass the class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Chapter</b>	<b>Case of the week</b>	<b>Before class</b>	<b>In-class activity</b>
Week 1 (Sep 10)	<b>Class Introduction</b> Form teams	<b>Article:</b> Creative acts for curious people (HBR article)		Team icebreaker activities
Week 2 (Sep 17)	Learning by the case method Book Chapters (Hahn 2022) A.4 Sustainability strategies B.1 Stakeholder management (pages 30 -53)	<b>Case:</b> Interface: The journey toward carbon negative	Submit Interface individual case worksheet	Team based analysis of Interface case
Week 3 (Sep 24)	Risks and opportunities from the transition to a low carbon economy: A business analysis framework Accounting for carbon offsets Climate change in 2020: Implications for business	<b>Case:</b> Net Zero Climate Commitments: Realistic Goal or Branding Exercise?	Submit climate commitments individual case worksheet  Ind. En-Roads result	Team 1 & 2 present, other teams submit report  Team based En-Roads simulation
Week 4 (Oct 01)	How to make sustainability every employee's responsibility Future-Proof Your Climate Strategy Accounting for climate change Decarbonizing Our Toughest Sectors - Profitably	<b>Case:</b> Grey to green transition – the sustainability journey of Dalmia cement	Submit G2G Transition ind case worksheet  Submit name of org for final project	Team 3 & 4 present, other teams submit report  In class Net Zero roleplaying exercise
Week 5 (Oct 08)	"It Will Need to Be the Most Amazing Thing Humankind Has Ever Done" Management systems for sustainability A Note on Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities Four Steps to Sustainable Business Model Innovation	<b>Case:</b> Plenty: Transforming Food for the future of our planet	Submit Plenty individual case worksheet	Team 5 & 6 present, other teams submit report  Finalize community partner and mandate for final project

Week 6 (Oct 15)	<b>No class</b> Company visit and environmental scan of the partner for final project Commence Sustainability Management Simulation: Net Zero Meet with TA as required			
Week 7 (Oct 22)	Fall Break ( <b>no class</b> )			
Week 8 (Oct 29)	Midterm week ( <b>no class</b> )	<b>Complete Net Zero simulation individually (Nov 03)</b>		
Week 9 (Nov 05)	No readings. Conduct external research to analyze the company environment	<b>Presentation:</b> Overview of the final project	Submit summary of team's overview of the company	Team brainstorming and analysis of company
Week 10 (Nov 12)	The messy but essential pursuit of purpose 25 years ago I coined the phrase "triple bottom line". Here is why it's time to rethink it Defining your organization's values Becoming a Better Corporate Citizen	<b>Case:</b> Brightwater Ethiopia: Clean water from broken wells	Submit Brightwater individual case worksheet	Team 7 & 8 present, other teams submit report
Week 11 (Nov 19)	Circular Economy readings (Use library AI tools, e.g. Consensus, to find articles on circular economy)	<b>Simulation:</b> Circular Economy - Fashion Forward	Circular Economy: Fashion Forward individual simulation result	Team based Circular Economy simulation.  Submit simulation's team report
Week 12 (Nov 26)	Design Thinking The right way to lead design thinking Implementing Design Thinking: Understanding Organizational Conditions The Social Psychology of Design Thinking	<b>Case:</b> Climeworks (A)	Submit Climeworks individual case worksheet	Team 9 & 10 present, other teams submit report

<b>Week 13</b> <b>(Dec 03)</b>	<b>In class presentation of final pitches</b>
<b>Last day of classes</b>	<b>Presenting the project report to community partner</b> <b>Peer evaluations</b> <b>Submit individual case analysis (Dec 08)</b>



## Contribution to Learning Goals of the Program

Below you will find a table describing how this course contributes to the BCom program goals which can be found online at this link (<https://sprott.carleton.ca/wp-content/uploads/AOL-BCom.pdf>)

Program Learning Goal	Competencies Not Covered	Competencies Introduced (only)	Competencies Taught But Not Assessed	Competencies Taught and Assessed
<b>CHECK (X) ONE PER ROW</b>				
<b>BC1 Knowledge</b> <i>Graduates will be skilled in applying foundational business knowledge to appropriate business contexts.</i>				X
<b>BC2 Collaboration</b> <i>Graduates will be collaborative and effective contributors in team environments that respect the experience, expertise and interest of all members.</i>				X
<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>				X
<b>BC4 Communication</b> <i>Graduates will be effective and persuasive in their communications.</i>				X

## INDIVIDUAL DELIVERABLES

### **Weekly individual case analysis worksheet:**

Also, each week you must complete an analysis of the case listed in the course schedule (see table above) and submit to Brightspace before the start of class. A guideline on how to complete the case analysis along with a report template will be reviewed during the first class and posted to Brightspace for reference. You will use your completed analysis worksheet during class as preparation for the in-class team case analysis activity described below in the team deliverable section..

### **Individual Business sustainability simulation (Net Zero):**

You need to complete the online business sustainability simulation during mid semester. You can make multiple attempts and explore all your different ideas for achieving the best possible outcome. The in-class activity during the class immediately after the midterm week will consist of the simulation debrief.

### **Individual case assignment (final assessment):**

In lieu of a final exam, you must submit a final individual case report. The case to be analyzed will be available for download on Brightspace. The submission should be no more than 1500 words (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt, 1” margins, APA/Chicago style references). References and supporting tables and figures do not count towards the word limit. The individual report should be a product of your own work exclusively. Your analysis should apply concepts and design principles learned throughout the course. Supplemental references are encouraged. Please submit the report to Brightspace. The due date will be the last day of exams and will be decided collectively during the first class.

### **Peer evaluation:**

At the end of the semester, you will be asked to evaluate the individual contributions of the other team members to all of the team presentations, recognizing that to consider one team member as contributing significantly more, requires that another team member be identified as contributing less (details of the evaluation to be provided in class).

After completing all the team deliverables, you will submit this peer evaluation of the other members in your team. A guideline and form will be provided on Brightspace and reviewed in class. The completed form should be submitted to Brightspace by last day of classes.

## TEAM DELIVERABLES

### **Team Case Analyses:**

You will be required to form teams during the first class. Once formed, your team will collectively carry out team assignments and presentations and reports throughout the semester without any further changes. The team assignments provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, followership, and other team skills. The online resources available at <http://sprott.carleton.ca/students/undergraduate/bcom/group-work-resources/> and <http://sprott.carleton.co/wp-content/files/Group-Work-Resources.pdf> are recommended.

Two teams in rotation will present their findings in class as described below, and all other teams will submit a written report. The case analysis should be completed in concise business writing and should be no more than 2 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12pt, 1" margins, APA references) excluding supplementary tables and figures. The presenting teams do not have to submit a written report.

**Team case presentations:** Each class, two teams will present their analysis of the case to the class. A presentation schedule will be developed during the first class. Each team will present twice over the course of the semester. Each team will have 15 minutes to present their analysis of the case, make a recommendation, and propose a design for the organization. The style and format of the presentation is up to each team – so be creative! Presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer period where all the other teams are expected to contribute constructively to the class discussion including comments, critiques, and other insights to build a stronger understanding of the case for everyone. The presenting team will upload their presentation slides/prezi or other presentation material to Brightspace instead of a case report for the week that they are presenting. Note: each presenting team is responsible for ensuring that their analysis, recommendation, and design are clearly stated in their presentation – these should be included in writing as backup material at the end of the slide deck if presented by other means during the class time (e.g., verbal presentation, skit, mock debate, etc.), or as a video of their presentation.

**Team case reports:** Each team will be responsible for preparing and submitting an analysis for every case, except for the cases they present. A case report template will be provided and review at the first class. The submission should be no longer than 2-3 pages, excluding tables and figures. Because each report is a team effort, you must discuss the case report with your team members. Do not summarize the case or provide background as this will take away from your ability to show your analyses, recommendations, and implementation plans. Remember to apply the concepts from the corresponding chapter

in the textbook. This analysis will be used by your team in the rebuttal/question/discussion session at the conclusion of the case presentations each week. You should also attempt to include learnings from previous weeks. This will build a holistic understanding and will greatly enhance your ability to conduct an excellent analysis and design for the final assignment.

**In-class activities:**

Each week, as part of the experiential learning approach, we will engage in team-based learning activities to further develop knowledge and understanding the concepts under discussion. The in-class activities will vary week-to-week with varying deliverables. Each activity will have a description posted to Brightspace and reviewed in class to be sure that everyone understands. As a facilitated experiential learning exercise, there will also be ample time in-class for questions and clarification. This includes the Fishbanks simulation.

**Team final project:**

During the final weeks of the semester, the teams need to collaborate in developing an applied project for the community at large that will allow you to apply the concepts learnt throughout the semester. You are free to choose any project of your liking, and if required, I will assist in finding a suitable organization for your final project.

## 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).

### Team work

The Sprott School of Business encourages team assignments in the school for several reasons. They provide you with opportunities to develop and enhance interpersonal, communication, leadership, follower-ship and other team skills. Team assignments are also good for learning integrative skills for putting together a complex task. You are assigned many tasks/assignments/projects in this course. Before embarking on a specific problem as a team, it is your responsibility to ensure that the problem is meant to be a team assignment and not an individual one.

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

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](http://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](http://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](http://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 may retain a copy of all work that is submitted, if they need personal records.
  - All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
  - For us to respond to your emails, we need 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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