Sustainable Business in the Nordics
University of California, Berkeley
Dr. Robert Strand

UGBA192T-1
Class # 19659
1 credit

Spring 2021
Mondays, 12-2pm
January 25 – March 19, 2021
(first half of spring semester)

The world faces big problems. Climate change, poverty, health & wellbeing, growing inequalities, decent work, clean water, and threats to democratic institutions represent a few of the many interconnected sustainability challenges articulated by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the face of these big problems, the Nordics can provide inspiration. Nordic countries and Nordic companies are frequently cited as global sustainability leaders topping most sustainability performance metrics. In this course, we deeply explore sustainability and social responsibility in the Nordics and consider what learnings may be prosperously applied in the U.S. context. Through this we consider the question how do we build resilient and sustainable societies?

While we center our attention on Nordic business, our line of inquiry extends beyond to consider the role that Nordic culture and Nordic policy has on sustainability practices and performances of Nordic business and societies. Through this, we consider the very nature of capitalism whereby we compare and contrast “Nordic Capitalism” with “American Capitalism” while exploring the sustainability ramifications of the differing approaches.

As an upper division undergraduate course, this course is open to undergraduate and graduate students from all schools across the university as an elective (see http://www.haas.berkeley.edu/Undergrad/current/course/enrollment.html). Classes will include lectures, interactive discussions, and debates. We intend for this course to serve as a platform for cross-disciplinary discussions and understanding. The only prerequisite is an open and curious mind. Interested students may also have the opportunity to engage in ongoing Nordic-minded research activities that may extend beyond the duration of the course. To express interest and receive any relevant updates, email MrNordic@berkeley.edu with “UGBA192T-1” in the subject line.

Mode of instruction: Remote; Method of delivery: Both Synchronous & Asynchronous

Dr. Robert Strand is the Executive Director of the Center for Responsible Business and member of the faculty at the Berkeley Haas School of Business. He also holds the title of Associate Professor with the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark and is a former U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Norway. His research and teaching compares U.S. and Nordic approaches to sustainable business and sustainable capitalism. His current book project is “Sustainable Vikings: What the Nordics Can Teach Us about Sustainable Capitalism and Building Resilient Societies.”