



Sustainable Capitalism 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)

Course Description:

The world faces big problems. Climate change, poverty, health & wellbeing, gender equality, decent work, clean water, growing inequalities, 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 and reside at the top of most sustainability performance measurements. In this course, we explore sustainability in the Nordics and consider what learnings may be prosperously applied in the U.S.

We center attention on Nordic business, but our line of inquiry extends beyond to consider the role that Nordic policies and culture have on sustainability practices and performances across Nordic societies. Here we are considering the very nature of capitalism whereby we will compare and contrast American “Shareholder Capitalism” with Nordic “Stakeholder Capitalism” while exploring the sustainability ramifications of the differing approaches. Through this we consider such fundamental questions as *How might we build more resilient and sustainable societies?* and *Is capitalism sustainable?*