Sustainable Capitalism in the Nordics?

University of California, Berkeley
Dr. Robert Strand

UGBA192T-1
1 credit

Class #: 19299
Mondays, 12-2pm
Spring 2023
Classes held first half of semester + Final exam on Monday 3 April

Course Description:
We face big challenges in this world. Climate change, poverty, health & wellbeing, access to quality education, decent work, loss of biodiversity, and growing inequalities are just a few of the interconnected sustainability challenges represented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the face of these challenges, the Nordics can offer inspiration. Nordic countries and companies are cited as global sustainability leaders, frequently topping sustainability performance indicators like the SDG Index.

This discussion-based course explores sustainability in the Nordics and considers what learnings may be prosperously applied in the US. Our inquiry focuses on the very concept of capitalism itself, and the relationship between capitalism, sustainability, democracy, and freedom. In doing so, we consider the ideas of “American shareholder capitalism” vis-à-vis “Nordic stakeholder capitalism” to compare American and Nordic policies and cultures, and their effects on sustainability practices and performances. We utilize the (forthcoming) book NORDIC CAPITALISM: What America Must Learn about Freedom & Sustainability from the Nordics by the course instructor, Robert Strand.