



# Sustainable Capitalism in the Nordics? – A Berkeley Changemaker Course

University of California, Berkeley

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UGBA192T-1

1 credit

Class #: [19066](#)

Mondays, 12-2pm [ending on 31 March]

Spring 2025

As global sustainability challenges intensify, the urgency for decisive action has never been greater. Issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and rising inequalities, highlighted by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are complex "wicked problems" that demand collaborative, innovative solutions.

The Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden — are recognized leaders in sustainability, with Nordic nations and companies consistently topping global sustainability rankings. Yet, like all developed nations, the Nordics face valid criticism for exceeding Planetary Boundaries.

This discussion-based course critically examines capitalism and sustainability through comparisons between American and Nordic models of capitalism. We begin with the fundamental question: *Is capitalism sustainable?* From there, we explore the interplay between capitalism and sustainability, using the SDGs and Planetary Boundaries, and considering the role of business. Ultimately, our line of inquiry centers on exploring whether a sustainable version of capitalism can be realized in practice – and how.

*Non-Haas students must first get on the waitlist and can then be enrolled. See: <https://haas.berkeley.edu/undergrad/academics/courses/enrollment/>. **MANY non-Haas students take this course** – so please **get on the waitlist!** This course runs from the first half of Spring Semester until spring break, so it's like a 2-credit course for the first half of the semester. Final exam held during normal class time on 31 March 2025.*