



Main academic
disciplines

CSR and
Sustainability
Sociology

AURORA

Permaculture: A Regenerative Solution for Business, Community and Lifestyle

Bachelor´s summer course 2026

Copenhagen Business School
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the European Union

CBS



**COPENHAGEN
BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Course content

This course introduces the permaculture design framework as a tool for innovative, critical thinking about sustainable and regenerative approaches to business, community, and lifestyle.

Permaculture offers a holistic way of designing resilient, diverse, and productive systems by observing and working with nature. Its principles are used worldwide to support sustainable living, strengthen communities, improve biodiversity and wellbeing, and encourage responsible production and consumption. In business, permaculture informs sustainable development and circularity; in communities, it enhances social networks and wellbeing; and in personal lifestyles, it inspires more humane, sustainable choices.

The course explores how permaculture reshapes the three focus areas, business, community, and lifestyle and includes critical perspectives on the framework.

Description of the teaching methods

Students will learn and apply theories, methods and tools applied to real cases, and hands-on course activities.

Teaching methods will consist of: interactive lectures, student participation and presentations, on-site teaching in CBS' own permaculture garden, Permahaven. Students will also be required to use the permaculture design framework in organising/managing their own groupwork and/or project process

SDG ´s covered by this course:



Description of the exam procedure

A combination of assignment and presentation: The student must participate in minimum 80% of the scheduled teaching.

In addition, the student must do a presentation, in groups, of a project in which students apply the permaculture ethics and principles to a selected problem in one of the following areas: i) business ii) community iii) lifestyle. The goal of the presentation is to show whether and how permaculture could enhance sustainable and/or regenerative practices and approaches.

Course self-evaluation tool:

This course uses the seizmic SURVEY which is a practical evaluation tool that was developed to assess how study programs or courses contribute to address key societal challenges through entrepreneurship and innovation. Translated to multiple languages, it introduces students to a range of skills they can acquire throughout the course and collects data on acquiring these skills.

Format

On site: 22 June - 07 July 2026

Exam: pass/fail examination based on active participation in class and assignment.

Nomination and application procedure:

Please contact your AURORA coordinator if you want to be nominated for this course. If you are selected, our summer university team will send you with the [AURORA application procedure](#).

Examination

Exam ECTS	3
Examination form	Active participation and assignment
Size of written product	Max. 5 pages
Release of assignment	The Assignment is released in <u>Digital Exam</u> (DE) at exam start. Written product to be submitted on specified date and time.
Grading scale	pass/fail
Examiner(s)	One internal examiner
Exam period	Summer
Course and exam timetable	https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/cbs-summer-university/exams
Make-up exam/re-exam	Oral exam based on written product In order to participate in the oral exam, the written product must be handed in before the oral exam; by the set deadline. The grade is based on an overall assessment of the written product and the individual oral performance. Size of written product: Max. 5 pages Assignment type: Essay Duration: 20 min. per student, including examiners' discussion of grade, and informing plus explaining the grade Examiner(s): If it is an internal examination, there will be a second internal examiner at the re-exam. If it is an external examination, there will be an external examiner..

Expected literature

- Holmgren, D. (2020). Essence of permaculture. Seymour, VIC, Australia: Melliodora Publishing.
- Everett, E. (2022). Combining the circular economy, doughnut economy, and permaculture to create a holistic economic model for future generations. Environmental Sciences Proceedings, 15(1), 19.
- Macnamara, L., & Storch, R. (2012). People and permaculture. Hampshire, United Kingdom: Permanent Publications. Chapters on the Permaculture 'Working in Groups'
- Schumacher, E. F., & Schumacher, V. (1996). Buddhist economics. Valuing the earth: economics, ecology, ethics.
- Hahn, T., & Tampe, M. (2021). Strategies for regenerative business. Strategic Organization, 19(3), 456-477.
- Aiken, G. (2017) Permaculture and the social design of nature, Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography, 99:2, 172-191
- Centemeri, L. (2019). Rethinking environmentalism in a 'ruined'world: Lessons from the permaculture movement. In The Role of Non-state Actors in the Green Transition (pp. 95-113). Routledge.
- Abiral, B. (2019). Permaculture and Ecological Lifestyle: A Restricted Radicalism? In Routledge Handbook of Radical Politics (pp. 477-491). Routledge.
- Haney, T. J., & Morrow, A. (2024). "We're Still on That Treadmill": Privilege, Reflexivity, and the Disruptive Potential of Permaculture. Capitalism Nature Socialism, 35(2), 96-115.