Instructor: Professor Sue Ruddick
Course time and place: Mondays 4pm – 7 pm 5016G Sidney Smith Hall 100 St. George Street.
Office: 5059 Sidney Smith Hall 100 St. George Street
Contact info: sue.ruddick@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday 11 am – 1 pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In the face of growing concerns around the climate crisis and its immediate and long-term impacts on our planet, organizations focused on activism and action have mushroomed locally and globally – from the very local scale to the international scale. The course builds on an initial panel discussion featuring ten key organizations that are locally engaged in climate activism.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to range of tools critical to successful mobilization (both within and outside of the state). The course draws on a range of scholarly literature on effective strategies of social mobilization - from geography, planning and cognate disciplines -- as well as a range resources from social movement organizations. Though focused on questions of climate activism in the Canadian context we often incorporate lessons learned from other kinds of social movements in other locales. Students will be encouraged to focus on context dependent appraisals of the challenges and opportunities afforded by different approaches to mobilization around the climate crisis.

The course will kick off with a 3-hour panel on Friday Sept 13th from 3pm – 6pm at Innis College Town Hall. Ten climate organizations will present their strategies, success stories and upcoming challenges. Throughout the course students will be invited to reflect on insights from readings in relation to these and other local organizing efforts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
In this course we explore the philosophies, practices, challenges and opportunities to a range of approaches to social mobilization and climate mitigation.

• We will first explore a broad schematization of the varied responses to the climate crisis and where different organizational efforts might ‘fit’ within this schema.
• Core questions focus on the relative efficacy of a wide range of characteristics of social mobilization efforts responding to the climate crisis. These include the internal organization of movements, communication strategies in the framing of issues and use of media platforms, development of a taxonomy of strategies and tactics, spatial strategies of mobilization, the creation of “sticky” demands and policies, coalition building and networking, and ways of sustaining activism over the long term.
• Students will be encouraged to think dialogically in their appraisal the range of opportunities offered by diverse approaches, ways they might work together in the short or long term, and both the possibilities of and limits to collaborations.

ASSIGNMENTS
READINGS (required readings): Come to class having read the readings assigned for the week and posted a response to suggested topics in the discussion thread for that week. You are also invited to post additional discussion topics, questions for the week. As a central feature of this class is in class discussion, you are asked to post for all ten weeks of class. With this in mind, I have kept required readings to a minimum of 3 per week. (5 points x 10) due weekly.
(You are required to post for all readings, I will select your top 8 for your grade) 40%

READINGS (optional readings): Optional does not mean unimportant. Students will be asked to take responsibility for 1 or 2 optional readings (depending on length – there are a few long ones) over the course of the term and to present a summary of key points (and a handout) to the class for discussion. (varying deadline) 10%

SHORT PAPER PROPOSAL: Students will be invited to select from one of the course themes and develop a short paper on that aspect of social mobilization in relation to a particular local initiative. This paper can build on your weekly response thread. Your proposal should be 2 pages long maximum. 20% due

SHORT PAPER: 8– 10 pages Due in class last day 30%
THE GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING OF CLIMATE ACTION AND ACTIVISM
SYLLABUS

Week 1 Sept 9: Introduction – Building Communities of Praxis - Who are We?

Week 2 Sept 16: Climate, Crisis and Conjuncture – Where are We Part 1?


Week 3 Sept 23: Exploring Climate X: Where are We - Part 2?


Week 4 Sept 30: Parties, Movements, States


Lopes de Souza, M. (2006). Together with the state, despite the state, against the state: Social movements as 'critical urban planning' agents. City, 10(3), 327-342. doi:10.1080/13604810600982347 (optional)

**Week 5 Oct 7: Mobilization and the Internal Organization of Social Movements**


**Week 6 Oct 14: Framing Strategies -- the medium**


**Week 7 Oct 21: Framing Strategies -- the Message**


Week 8 Oct 28: Strategies and tactics within and beyond the state


Week 9 Nov 4: Spatial Strategies


Week 10 Nov 11: Network Coalition Building


**Week 11 Nov 18: Sustaining Activism**


**Week 12 Nov 25: Wrap-up Class Discussion**