This course surveys the history of Nova Scotia from the 1860s to the present. Topics include Confederation, the nature of Victorian society, changing Atlantic and American contexts, twentieth-century wars, social and economic upheavals of the 1920s and 30s, economic development and decline, immigration and out-migration, identity and tourism, aboriginal and Africadian communities, and Nova Scotia’s relationship with the rest of Canada.

**Required Readings:**


This book is available at the University Bookstore in the SUB.

All other required readings are available online through the library database system and Novanet, as outlined in the following syllabus. If you are unfamiliar with using Novanet OR the database system to access journal articles, please make an appointment at the Killam Library for a tutorial.

**Recommended Texts**


Both of these texts are available at the Killam Library.
Evaluation

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Seminar Participation and Commentaries

Participation in class discussions is required in this upper-year seminar class. Your participation mark will reflect your contribution to class discussions. There are no lectures in this course. We will meet for seminars every Tuesday and Thursday. Each week, you will be responsible for reading the assigned articles AND submitting a brief 1/2-2 page commentary of the reading(s) for one seminar per week on that seminar day. Late submissions will not be accepted. If you are absent, you may email me your commentary BEFORE class time. In total, you are responsible for submitting TEN (10) commentaries.

Book Review

This assignment is due in class on **October 13th**. It is worth 20% of your final grade.

This review will be based on John Demont’s *Coal Black Heart*. No additional research is required for this assignment, although you may use course readings or other secondary sources in the review if you wish. The review should have a clear introduction, a discussion of the book’s content and arguments, and a short conclusion. It should contain a brief report on the organization and content of the book. However, your review should focus on an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the book. This means a focus on an analysis of the historical quality of the work in terms of the evidence upon which it is based, the themes explored in the book, and the book’s connection to Nova Scotian history.

Be critical and analytical, but also fair. It is not necessary to be negative. Please proofread and edit carefully. This review must be written at a university level. Avoid personal phrases such as: “I think...” and “I found the book interesting...” For more information on these points and on writing a review, see:


The review should be 5-7 pages in length using Times New Roman 12-point font (or equivalent), double spaced (1250-1750 words). Cover pages are not necessary, but please include your name, a title, and the date of submission, and number all pages except the cover and your first page.
Include a bibliography (even if you only use the DeMont book) and cite your sources using footnotes and endnotes.

Please see the Department of History Style Guide for citation techniques and other guidelines. (This guide is available on the department website and also as hardcopies from the History Department office, McCain 1158).

Research Paper

This written assignment is due in class on **November 26th**. It is worth 20% of your final grade.

This essay can examine any topic relevant to the broad interests of this course. Papers should be approximately 2000-2500 words (8-10 pages double spaced) in length, and should draw on at least six scholarly sources. You may use readings from our seminars. Students are welcome to examine topics rooted in primary sources: Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, an unparalleled resource for research in Nova Scotian history, is located on the Dalhousie campus.

Please see the attached list of suggested topics.

Please format your essays in accordance with preferred Dalhousie History Department style, as outlined in the Dalhousie History Style guide.

Research Paper Presentations

These presentations will take place in class on November 24th and 26th. This is worth 5% of your final grade.

You are responsible for a short (~10min) presentation on your research paper topic. Use visual aids if you want – but keep it brief! Let me know what kind of AV you need.

End of Term Test

There will be an in-class test on **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 2015**. In the event of a storm cancellation, the test will be moved to December 8th. The test will be based on material from the class seminars as well as the assigned readings.
Other Important Things

Please note that the last day to withdraw from a Fall term course without a W is October 9th. The last day on which to drop a Fall term course with a W is November 6th.

Accommodation
Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student’s accommodation. There is an honorarium of $75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

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Some Suggested Topics and Ideas for starting out with your Research Paper.
*Please note that these are broad topics and ideas – and will need to be refined and shaped into a proper THESIS in your papers. Tell me the SIGNIFICANCE of these events, people, places, and things.

Part I: Confederation to WWII

Economy and Society in Transition (late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries)
Confederation and Railways
Ship-building in Nova Scotia (Shelburne and Lunenburg)
Samuel Cunard and the Cunard Steamship Company
Halifax and the Titanic
Joseph Howe

Victorian Society (late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries)
The Prince of Wales’ Visit to Halifax, 1860
Alexander Graham Bell in Baddeck
Victoria School of Art & Design
Private and Public Schools
Boxing Champion George Dixon of Africville

The Early Twentieth Century and World War I
The Halifax Citadel: From British to Canadian
The Halifax Explosion
The ‘Spanish Flu’
 Temperance and Prohibition
Women and Social Reform

Modernism, Anti-modernism and the Long Depression (the 1920s and 1930s)
J.B. McLachlan, Cape Breton union-organizer
Prohibition and Smuggling
Moses Michael Coady
Outmigration to New England and Central Canada
Stanley Thompson and Golf in Nova Scotia

Life in WWII (the 1940s and 1950s)
Battle of the Atlantic
The Halifax Riots
Angus L. MacDonald
War Brides
The 1940 Rowell-Sirois Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations
Part II: Post-War Nova Scotia

Reconstruction, Economic Development and Coastal Communities
The Canso Causeway
The Springhill Disaster
Robert L. Stanfield
Inshore and Off-shore fisheries
Michelin Tire

Natural Landscapes and Cultural Memory
Helen Creighton and ‘the Folk’
Evangeline
Kejimkujik National Park
Peggy’s Cove
Historic Properties, Halifax

Ethnicity and Activism: Acadia, Africadia and Mi’kma’ki
Africville
Acadian Renaissance
Donald Marshall Junior and Mi’kmaw Treaties
Anna Mae Pictou Aquash
George Elliot Clark

Migration: Arrivals and Departures
Elizabeth Bishop
The Shambala Community
The Greek Festival and the Greeks in Nova Scotia
Lebanese Migration to Nova Scotia
Pier 21
Course Schedule

10 September - Introduction

Week 1: Background and Confederation

September 15  Background – Mi’kmaq / Acadia / Nova Scotia to 1867
John DeMont, Coal Black Heart (2009), Prologue – Chapter 4 (pp1-81).

September 17

*Access through Novanet, “The Canadian Historical Review Index” [electronic resource]

Week 2: Victorian Nova Scotia: Society and Identity

September 22

*Access through Novanet, ebook.

September 24


Week 3: The Early Twentieth-Century and WWI

September 29
John Demont, Coal Black Heart (2009), Chapters 5-9 (pp82-172).

October 1
**Week 4: The Interwar Years**

**October 6**
John DeMont, *Coal Black Heart*, chapters 10-14 (pp173-265).


**October 8**

**Week 5: WWII and Post War NS**

**October 13 ***Book Review Due***

**October 15**

**Week 6: Immigration and Pier 21**

**October 20**


**October 22**
On-Site visit to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

**Week 7: First Nations**

**October 27**
October 29
Film: Is the Crown at War With Us? (NFB)

Week 8: Africadians

November 3

November 5

Week 9:

November 10

November 12 – ***NO CLASSES***

Week 10:

November 17

November 19 ***Research Papers Due***

Week 11

November 24  Student Presentations

November 26  Student Presentations

Week 12

December 1  Review

December 3  ***In-Class TEST***

Week 13

December 8  ***Storm Date for In-Class Test***