We begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30

American scholar George Lipsitz has authored a number of valuable histories, including Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s, Footsteps in the Dark: The Hidden Histories of Popular Music, and How Racism Takes Place. Professor Lipsitz will speak at Dalhousie this October, courtesy of Professor Ingrid Waldron and the ENRICH Project’s conference, Over the Line: A Conversation on Race, Place, and the Environment.

In 1995, Professor Lipsitz published “The Possessive Investment in Whiteness,” widely considered a foundational article in then-emerging field of Whiteness Studies in America. This year’s seminar will examine the major claims of Lipsitz and other American scholars regarding “whiteness,” and evaluate their relevance to the study of post-Confederation Canadian history, paying special attention to recent scholarship on Nova Scotia.

Class & Reading Schedule

Sept 7th  Introduction

**Sept 14th**  **Whiteness in America: Property, Anxiety, Policing**


**Sept 21st**  **Race, Property, and Mercy**


**Sept 28th**  **Race, Sexuality, and Patriarchal Families**


**Oct 5th**  **Five Native Types: Imagining Whiteness for the Market**


**Oct 12th**  **Wage Work**


**Oct 19**  
Land


**Oct 26**  
State Formation as Cultural Revolution


**Nov 2**  
Beautification, Recreation, and Memorialization

Beaton, The Centennial Cure, 81-196.

**Nov 9**  
Fall Break – no class

Nov 16  
Student Research Presentations

Nov 23  
Student Research Presentations

Nov 30  
Student Research Presentations

**Texts**

Barrington Walker’s Race on Trial and Meaghan Elizabeth Beaton’s The Centennial Cure are sold at Bookmark, 5686 Spring Garden Road:  
https://bookmanager.com/1163574/?q=h

The remainder are accessible online via the Killam or will be distributed via the course’s BLS site.
Marking Breakdown

Participation 15%
Essay Evaluations 15%
Research Essay proposal
Research Essay, 1st draft 20%
Research Essay, 2nd draft 50%

Participation

Topics in Canadian Social History is a seminar course with an above-average amount of reading. You are expected to evaluate the arguments in the readings before coming to class, and to have your own ideas and questions about the material for others to consider – discussion is the heart of any seminar course.

No marks are earned for attendance; the participation grade is earned based on the quantity and quality of your contributions to class discussions. A portion of this mark may be earned by providing written answers to questions in class.

Research Essay

During the term, you will write a research essay, 20 pages in length, pertaining to Canadian social history. Research essays are built with the following components:

1. An introduction that conveys the significance of the subject as well as your research questions and answers.
2. A clear and concise thesis statement, in the form of an argument that can be proven by marshalling evidence.
3. A historiographical section that describes and evaluates the major schools of thought pertaining to your subject.
4. The so-called ‘body’ of the paper, which combines narrative and analysis in order to demonstrate the validity of the thesis statement.
5. A conclusion that restates the arguments.

To produce a paper of this length, you are expected to track down and critically examine primary sources. For some of you, this type of research will form the bulk of your essay.
Research Essay Proposal

With a minimum of 500 words, explain the subject and scope of your research, including a clearly defined thesis statement. In a separate bibliography, list at least 7 secondary sources that will figure prominently in your paper. Your bibliography should also contain a list of your primary sources, with brief descriptions of each.

You must submit 2 paper copies of the proposal by 3 pm, October 2\textsuperscript{nd}. There are no extensions, save for documented medical and family emergencies.

Research Essay, First Version

With more research as well as comments from me on your proposal, you will finish a first version. It is helpful to view this essay as a preliminary working-out of the four keys to every paper: research, theory, methodology, and writing. This draft will give you a sense of the additional research required to complete the final version. It should also help you to identify interpretive problems, and to sharpen your analysis.

This is to be a completed essay of 12 pages, including citations that conform to History Department standards. Essays that are incomplete in any respect will not be accepted. You must submit 2 paper copies and 1 electronic copy of your first version by 3 pm, November 6\textsuperscript{th}. There are no extensions, save for documented medical and family emergencies. Late submissions lose 3% per day; no essays will be accepted after November 15\textsuperscript{th}.

Essay Evaluations

Of the course of three weeks in November, during class time, students will present the first draft of their research essays to the group. Each essay will be pre-circulated, and students are expected to devise helpful critical comments for each presenter.

Your grade will be earned based on the quantity and quality of your critical feedback.

Research Essay, Second Version

With comments from me and feedback from your fellow students, you will complete your final draft, of 20 pages in length. You must make substantial improvements to your initial effort to maintain or raise your grade. In practical terms, this means more research, both primary and secondary. It also means rewriting sentences, restructuring paragraphs, and sometimes even tossing out whole sections.

You must submit 1 paper copy of the second research essay by 3 pm, December 15\textsuperscript{th}. There are no extensions, save for documented family and medical emergencies. Late submissions will lose 3% per day; no essays will be accepted after December 22\textsuperscript{nd}.