

HIST 22802.01/CANA 2280.01: AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN HISTORY



Instructor: Isaac Saney; **Email:** isaney@dal.ca

Tel.: 902-494-8810

Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 3:35-4:55 pm

Location: Rm. 212, Henry Hicks Academic

Office: TYP House, 1400 LeMarchant Street

Office Hours: By appointment

HIST 2802.1/CANA 2802.2 – African Nova Scotian History provides an historical survey of the Black population in Nova Scotia, its origins, socio-economic conditions, politics and development to the present. The people of African descent in the Maritimes represent a particular aspect of the African Diaspora. This course explores this experience in both a Nova Scotian and global context. The central tenet is that the history of the Black population is an integral component of the region's history: they both cannot be understood and should-not be viewed in isolation or separation from one another. A recurring theme is the active and conscious historical agency of African Nova Scotians in the struggle to assert their democratic rights and achieve self-determination. Some of the questions posed and discussed include: What is unique about the Black experience in Nova Scotians? Do African Nova Scotians constitute a distinct people? If so, what is the nature of this distinctiveness?

Format

Instruction in this course will take the form of lectures, discussion of the readings, with occasional videos and guest speakers.

Readings

Required texts: Bridglal Pachai, *The Black Nova Scotian Experience Through the Centuries* and Burnley "Rocky" Jones: *Revolutionary* by Burnley "Rocky" Jones & James W. St.G. Walker. The texts are complemented by additional readings that will be placed on Brightspace. There are also supplemental readings that provide additional information and cover other dimensions of the class topics. While not mandatory, the supplemental readings will be of interest and use to students.

Evaluation

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Three review essays: | 30% |
| Midterm exam: | 30% |
| Take-home exam: | 30% |
| Class participation: | 10% |

Due Dates

Review essays: 1st – January 31; 2nd – March 8; 3rd – April 5.

Midterm examination: February 15.

Take-home examination: Handed out on April 5, due April 13.

Rewiew Essay: Each student will choose assigned readings for a specific class or classes and write a short esssay of between 750-1000 words, identifying and discussing the main points, ideas and argument(s) in relation to class lectures and discussions. The 1st essay is based on class readings from January 11 to January 25. The 2nd essay is based on readings from January 30 to March 6. The 3rd essay is based on readings from March 6 to April 5.

Take-home Examination: This will be handed out on April 5 and will be due April 18. Students will be required to write on two questions, with word limits of 750-1000 & 1,000 -1,500 respectively. Take-home examinations should be handed in at the TYP House, 1400 LeMarchant Street.

Class participation: Students are expected to participate in discussion of assigned readings. This necessitates coming to class prepared. Do your readings in advance.

Class Outline

Jan 9 Introduction: Course Overview

Jan 11 Issues in the historiography and socio-economic study of Black Canada

Readings: George Elliot Clarke, *Must All Blackness Be American*; ISaney, *On Reparations*; Saney; *Our Philosophy*; Burnley “Rocky” Jones & JamesWalker,

Jan 16 & 18 The Forced Diaspora
I. General overview of Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
II. Slavery in Canada and Nova Scotia

Readings: Pachai, pp. 5-36; Harvey Imani Whitfield, *Slavery in Nova English Nova Scotia, 1750-1810*.

Supplemental reading: Cooper, *The Secret of Slavery in Canada*; Holman, *Slaves and Servants on Prince Edward Island: The Case of Jupiter Wise*,

Jan 23 & 25 Black Migration to Nova Scotia: The Role of Black Labour
I. The American War of Independence and Africans in the colonies.
II. The Arrival the Black Loyalists
III. The Land question.

Readings: Pachai, pp. 37-56; Whithead, *Leaving New York for Nova Scotia*.

Jan 30 & Feb 1 Black Migration to Nova Scotia: The Role of Black Labour
I. The Shelburne Riot: Early issues of race and class in Nova Scotia.
II. The Sierra Leone Migration
III. Loyal or not?

Readings: Pachai, pp. 37-56; Cahill, *The Black Loyalist Myth in Atlantic Canda*; Whithead, *Life in Nova Scotia*; Walker, *Myth, History and Revisionism: The Black Loyalists Revisited*.

Feb 6 Black Migration to Nova Scotia: The Role of Black Labour
I. The Maroons
II. The Maroon Legacy

Readings: Pachai, pp. 56-65; James D. Lockett, *The Deportation of the Maroons of Trelawny Town to Nova Scotia, then Back to Africa*.

Feb 8 Black Migration to Nova Scotia: The Role of Black Labour
I. The Napoleonic Wars and Nova Scotia
II. War of 1812 and Africans in the United States
III. Arrival of the Black Refugees

Readings: Pachai, pp. 68-102; Whitfield, *The Development of Black Refugee Identity in Nova Scotia, 1813-1850*.

Feb 13 Black Migration to Nova Scotia: The Crucial Role of Black Labour
1. Cape Breton
2. The Garvey Movement

Readings: Pachai, pp. 152-156; Paul MacDougall, *Marcus Garvey and Nova Scotia*; Paul Macdougall, *The Glace Bay Universal Negro Improvement Association*;

Feb 15 Midterm Exam

Feb 27 & March 1 Institution for Survival: The Church
I. General Overview of the Church's role and function in African North American Communities

- II. Historical context for this role
- III. The Church and Black Nova Scotia

Readings: Pachai, pp. 102-128; Winks, *Source of Strength? – The Church*; Jones & Walker, pp. 23-25.

- March 6`** Instrument of Inequality: The Education System and Black Nova Scotians
- I. The History and Political Economy of Black Nova Scotian History
 - II. Video: *Black Insights- Education* (25 minutes)
 - III. The legacy: The BLAC Report.
 - IV. The “To Kill a Mockingbird” debate.

Readings: Pachai, pp. 128-140 & 282- 293; BLAC Report, *The History of Black Education in Nova Scotia*; Jones & Walker, pp. 150-162.

Supplemental reading: BLAC report, *Legacy of the Education System*; Saney, *The case against To Kill A Mockingbird*; Winks, *Source of Strength? – The Schools*.

- March 8 & 13** Land Issues and Dispossession
- I. Historical background
 - II. Africville: Lessons and Legacy
 - III. Videos: *Africville* (30 minutes) and *Black Insights - Land claims*

Readings: Bridglal Pachai, “Early History of Africville” and “The Africville Saga” pp. 156-165 & 252-260 in *The Black Nova Scotian Experience Through the Centuries*, and George Elliott Clarke, *The Death & Rebirth of Africadian Nationalism*.

Supplemental reading: Osberg, *Africville Revisited*; Saunders, *A Visit to Africville*; Allen, *Lessons from Africville*.

- March 15** Continuing Odyssey and Strength: Black Women in Nova Scotian
- I. The central historical role of women
 - II. Video: *Black Mother, Black Daughter* (30 minutes)
 - III. Gender issues in the Black Community: Feminism and the Black Community

Readings: Hamilton, *Our Mothers Grand and Great: Black Women of Nova Scotia*; Jones & Walker, pp. 7-23; Suzanne Morton, *Spheres in a Separate World: African-Nova Scotian Women in late-19th-Century Halifax County*.

Supplemental readings: Evans, *Telling the Truth*; *Poetry of Faith Nolan and Delvina Bernard*.

- March 20 & 22** Politics and the Black Nova Scotian Community: Struggle for Equality
- I. Black Nova Scotian Politics: From the AUBA to NSAACP to BUF to the electoral “casino”
 - II. The 1960s.

III. Contemporary political challenges of the African Nova Scotian Community (ies): At the ideological crossroads

Readings: Pachai, pp. 260-282 & 323-342; Jones & Walker, pp. 92-149 & 163-176; Boyd, *The Politics of the Minority Game: The Decline and Fall of the Black United Front*.

Supplemental reading: Winks, *Self-Help and a New Awakening*.

March 27 & 29 Black Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq Nation

- I. Early interaction
- II. Blacks is Mi'kmaw oral history
- III. Contemporary relationship
- IV. The problematic of the term “indigenous blacks”

Readings: Amadahy & Lawrence, *Indigenous Peoples and Black People in Canada: Settlers or Allies?*; George Elliott Clarke, “*Indigenous Blacks*” - *An Irreconcilable Identity?*

April 3 & 5 A Reappraisal: Location

- I. Contemporary Issues
- II. Nova Scotia & The Black Atlantic
- III. Are Black Nova Scotians a Distinct people/nation?

Readings: Clarke, *Must All Blackness Be American*; Daniel McNeil, *Afro(Americo)centricity in Black (American) Nova Scotia*.

