

## Undergraduate Research Opportunity

### PROJECT

#### San Francisco 8 & African American History Textbook Project

Prof. Curtis Austin

History

Hours required p/week:	6
Credits anticipated:	2

The project, "San Francisco 8 & African American History Textbook Project," focuses on a court case involving the 2007 arrests of 8 former members of the Black Panther Party for a police homicide that occurred in San Francisco in 1971. It covers topics ranging from the trial hearings and national and international organizing by the SF8's supporters as well FBI and police misconduct, including the use of torture and armed ambushes. A San Francisco judge dismissed the murder charges in September 2011. The project also covers the social and political histories of Black Americans from the 1970s to the present and examines the role of the Black Panther Party, and its offshoot, the Black Liberation Army, in effecting social change in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York City, and New Orleans. Also featured will be Congress's attempts to solve Civil Rights-era cold case murders and the roles of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security in these efforts. It will also detail why a San Francisco judge dismissed the murder charges in 2011. Additionally, the social and political histories of Black Americans from the 1970s to the present will be covered. Intended for a textbook entitled "Culture and Resistance," these chapters will focus on housing issues, voting rights, presidential politics, state and local political organizing, the impact of Hip-Hop and Black Lives Matter, immigration, employment issues and mass incarceration.

TEMPE

ONLINE

### STUDENT

#### Research assistant's duties:

The student will assist in the indexing, organizing, and summarizing of large volumes of discovery materials from the case described above. They will also research newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals and other primary and secondary sources related to both projects described above. The goal here is to identify the best materials for telling a nuanced story of Black Americans from the late 20th to the early 21st centuries.

#### Required skills or qualifications:

English is required. Proficiency in the use of online search engines and locally available library resources. The student must be a self-starter, well organized, and curious.

#### Skills student will acquire:

The student will learn how to analyze historical documents, how to conduct historical research, how to identify evidence, and how to summarize large volumes of historical data.