This URO focuses on so-called modern slavery or forced labor that occurred after the abolition of chattel slavery in the United States in 1865 and in countries like India and Brazil. It supports a book project bridging slaveries through the production of commodities and supply chains. In particular, this research focuses on coerced labor in cotton, sugar, and shrimp, spanning the 1870s to today. It will feature searches for primary or original sources on forced labor after slavery, including first-hand accounts, newspaper reports, and government records. It will also delve into sources and thematic issues pertaining to this widespread but not well understood practice to ask the question of the extent to which those involved were enslaved.

**Research assistant's duties:**
The Research Assistant will devote several hours per week to uncovering primary sources and analyzing them for patterns. That will culminate in a mid-term and a non-cumulative final paper discussing the value and limitations of such sources to understanding the subjects under investigation. Once-weekly meetings of about 45 minutes to an hour will also be required with the professor. The Researcher will have excellent organization, written, and communications skills and preferably a background in the general history of this period.

**Required skills or qualifications:**
A background in United States history

**Skills student will acquire:**
At the end of the course the Researcher will learn best practices of historical documentary research and analysis as part of a larger research project. The Researcher will help move two chapters of a larger book project from concept to concrete drafts using a variety of primary source or the raw materials of history, and emerge with an inside view of how historical research is done. For more information on the book project this research supports, see: [www.theslavesweeat.com](http://www.theslavesweeat.com)