Undergraduate Research Opportunity

**PROJECT**

**History of the American Racial Wealth Gap**

Prof Calvin Schermerhorn  
History

This project investigates the 400 year history of America’s racial wealth gap, from colonial disinheriances, early national dispossession, and recent Decapitalization. Today, African-Americans earn on average 1/10 the income of white Americans, 50 years after Civil Rights and 150 years after slavery. Going back 20 generations, this project seeks to understand why the racial wealth gap is so persistent.

**STUDENT**

Research assistant’s duties:
The research assistant will uncover original historical sources, assist with bibliographies of secondary sources, and write brief essays analyzing those sources. The researcher will be able to choose a period with the 400-year timeframe corresponding to her or his interests.

Required skills or qualifications:
Familiarity with African American history. Must have excellent writing and organizing skills.

Skills student will acquire:
Best practices in research and historical analysis on a larger book project, and an inside view of historical craftsmanship.