

## Law and Society in US History

21H.224 Spring 2003

### Second Writing Assignment

#### The Strange Career of the Fourteenth Amendment

Choose **one** of the following three assignments. Your paper should be **five to six** pages long (with standard font and margins) and is due one day after Class 15. You may submit the paper in class a day before the due date, or by email attachment. If you send the paper by attachment, you must keep a backup paper copy and be ready to submit that if there are any computer difficulties. Extensions will be granted only for good reasons explained well in advance; computer malfunctions are never an acceptable excuse for a late submission. Adherence to standards of academic honesty is required. You may use any citation system that you wish (MLA parenthetical reference style, *Chicago Manual of Style*, legal citation), as long as your references are clear and complete.

**Option One:** Did the Supreme Court misinterpret the Fourteenth Amendment in the cases from *Slaughterhouse* to the turn of the century? Why or why not? You may construct a historical argument that draws on the history of the Fourteenth Amendment, Reconstruction, and postwar American history, or you may choose to focus on the cases themselves.

**Option Two:** Was *Muller v. Oregon* (1908) a victory for women? Why or why not?

**Option Three:** If you would like to write a paper that involves more in-depth historical research into one of the cases that we have studied in the last two or three weeks, you can do that as well, as long as you consult with me in advance. Examples could include the history of slaughterhouses in New Orleans in the 1870s; laws regulating railroad travel in the 1890s; court decisions about Chinese immigrants, and so on.