Assignment Sheet 5: “RACE” IN AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. A preliminary outline and bibliography for your research paper is due on March 6. The “outline” can be in any format that works for you, whether a standard outline (with or without Roman numerals, etc.) or a prose abstract. Your final paper may end up quite different from some of what you do at this stage, but you need to come up with a tentative plan at this point. See the separate directions for both the “outline” and the bibliography.
2. There will be no regular class on February 27. Instead, each of you needs to meet with me at least once (preferably in person, but by phone if needed) between the classes of February 20 and March 6 to discuss your individual research. For those who cannot come to school during the day, I can meet with you after 5:00 on any weekday except Friday.
3. The reading and questions on this assignment sheet will be discussed in class on March 6, so make time to read and think about them while you are preparing your outline and bibliography.

REQUIRED READING (available on electronic reserve)
Fields, Barbara J., “Of Rogues and Geldings” (including a one-page introduction to the Forum in The American Historical Review in which this essay was included)
Victoria E. Bynum, “‘White Negroes’ in Segregated Mississippi: Miscegenation, Racial Identity, and the Law”
Yarbrough, Fay, “Legislating Women’s Sexuality: Cherokee Marriage Laws in the Nineteenth Century”

WEEKLY REPORT SHEET
1. Any thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions inspired by the meetings at the two archives. What are your current assumptions about whether and how you will be able to find useful information for your current research at either or both of the archives?
2. For each assigned reading, after including the basic bibliographic information (for your future use), summarize BRIEFLY in your own words the main points and thesis, as well as your evaluation of the strengths and/or weaknesses of the essay. For the combined readings, indicate any thoughts and/or questions you have, including any terms you want us to discuss and any ideas they inspired about how to do your own research and analysis for this class.
3. What are your thoughts about the best ways for historians to research and analyze the history of “race” and “racism,” and possibly “whiteness?”
4. Choose a published scholarly essay by a professional historian connected to your research topic that you think would be interesting for the entire class to read. Then give the basic bibliographic information about it, a short statement about what it covers, and a short explanation of why you think it would be useful for us to read.
5. Any new thoughts you have about your final paper and any reading or other work you did in connection to it.
6. Anything else you think I should know.