# Sociology 190: Life and Death in the U.S.
## Spring 2013
## Midterm Examination #2

**Name:** _____

**Harvard ID:** _____

**TF:** _____

**Directions:**

Please read these instructions carefully; **we will deduct points if you do not comply with them exactly:**

1.  Write your full name, Harvard ID number, and TF's name at the top of this page.

2.  This exam consists of SIX (6) questions. Each page except the last has ONE question on it with extensive space to answer that question. You need to answer FIVE of the six questions. **You should answer *only* FIVE (5)**. If you answer all six, we will grade and count only #1-5, and you will have made bad use of your limited time. The last page is scrap paper that will not be graded (you may rip it off to use it).

3.  **On every page except the scrap paper, write your Harvard ID and name at the top. DO THIS NOW.**

4.  Leave blank the page with the question you are not answering. If you start writing on it, put a large X through the page. **It must be clear to the graders which question you are choosing not to answer.**

5.  **A good answer will refer to readings or lectures where relevant** (you can mention a name or the title or just the article's topic).

6.  Your answer should be as **organized, clear, and concise** as possible. Remember that we are NOT expecting a full essay – you are not required (or even encouraged) to use all the space provided to answer a question. (However, if you need more space, you may go onto the back of the page). **It is fine to be brief,** as long as you answer all parts of the question. **Make sure to write legibly.**

7.  Please raise your hand to speak with a TF if you have any questions.

<u>Good luck!</u>

----------------------------------------------For graders' use only----------------------------------------------

Question 1: _____          Question 4: _____

Question 2: _____          Question 5: _____

Question 3: _____          Question 6: _____

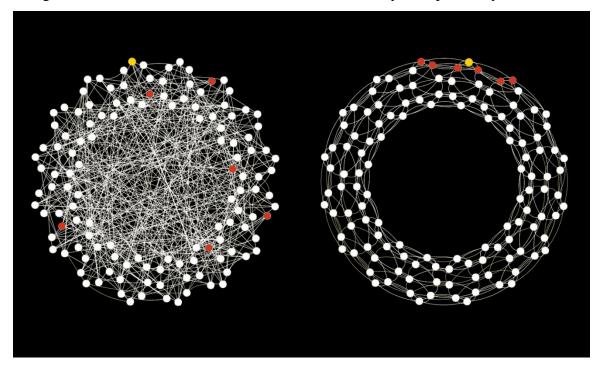Total: _____

# Question #1

Name: _____

Harvard ID: _____

(a) Briefly define the terms "human capital" and "social capital" and give **two** examples of each type of capital.

(b) Given the way this term was described in the reading by Coleman* and in lecture, can we think of social capital as a property of individuals? Why or why not?

(c) **Briefly** describe why social capital is so hard to create and maintain.

*Coleman, J. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital" *American Journal of Sociology* 1988; 94: S95-S120.

According to the Centola reading (Centola D, "The Spread of Behavior in an Online Social Network Experiment" *Science* 2010; 329: 1194-1197), in which of the two illustrated networks in the figure below would a health behavior diffuse more easily?   Explain why.



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# Question #3

Name: _____

Harvard ID: _____

a) Why do McGinnis and Foege (McGinnis JM and Foege WH, "Actual Causes of Death in the United States" *JAMA* 1993; 270: 2207-2212) call their conceptualization the "actual causes"?
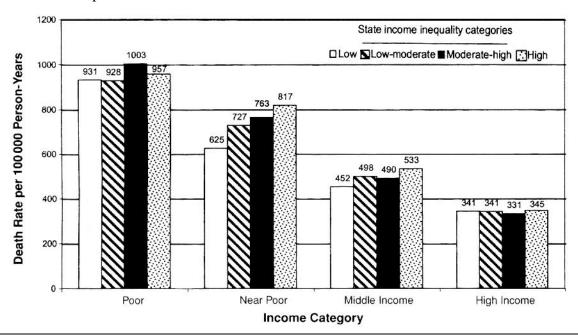
b) Name three "causes of death" according to the McGinnis and Foege approach.

c) If policymakers in the Federal Government adopted this approach, suggest one way that it might affect how the government responds to the burden of illness in our society.

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# Question #4

The graph below is taken from lecture and from one of your readings (Lochner K, et al., "State-level Income Inequality and Individual Mortality Risk: A Prospective, Multilevel Study" *American Journal of Public Health* 2001; 91: 385-391).

(a) Briefly explain what the graph shows.

(b) Speculate about why the relevant effect might be different for the poor and the rich compared to the other two groups.

(c) **Briefly** explain how the data in the graph and in the paper from which it was taken relate to the debate over whether the relationship between income inequality and health reflects contextual or compositional effects.



Use the back of this page if you need more space, and put an arrow here:

# Question #5

Name: _____

Harvard ID: _____

Two assigned readings* report unintended/surprising effects of social network interventions.

      (a) Briefly describe **one** of the findings and why it was surprising.

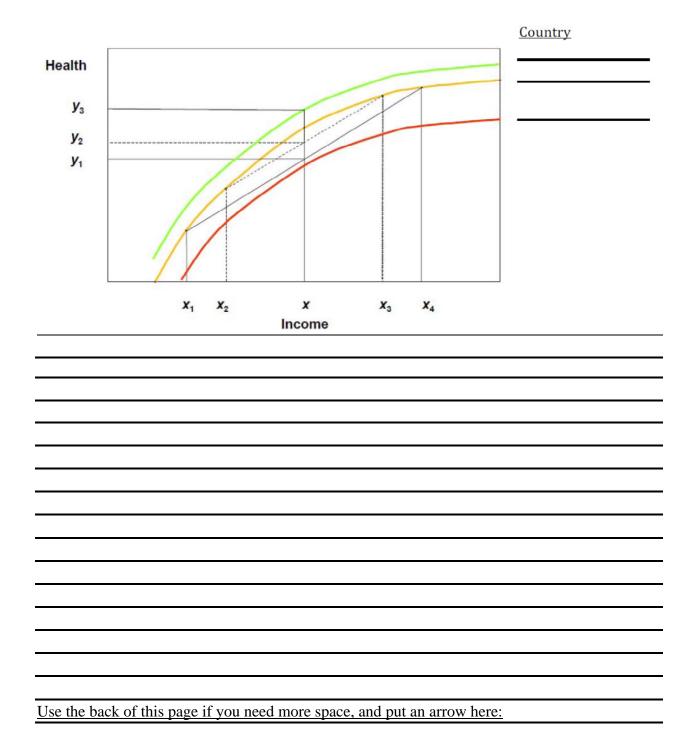      (b) Explain why it was observed.

*(1) Carrell SE, et al. "From Natural Variation to Optimal Policy: The Lucas Critique Meets Peer Effects" *NBER Working Paper* 16865; and

(2) Valente TW, et al. "Peer Acceleration: Effects of a Social Network Tailored Substance Abuse Prevention Program among High-Risk Adolescents" *Addiction* 2007; 102: 1804-1815.

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# Question #6

Below is a graph that was shown in lecture of the relationship between health and individual income in three different countries. Each curve represents one of the countries: the United States, Ghana, and Sweden.

   (a) In the spaces provided next to the graph, write the country that corresponds to each curve. (You may not remember this particular graph, but you should be able to figure out the answer to this question based on the trends we've talked about in class).
   (b) Explain your choices in Part (a). What accounts for the ordering you chose?
   (c) Briefly explain why, in the case of all three countries, the graph of health vs. individual income is curved rather than linear.

Country
_____

Health

$y_3$

$y_2$

$y_1$

$x_1$   $x_2$          $x$          $x_3$   $x_4$

Income

**Scrap Paper**
**\*\*Nothing on this page will be graded\*\***