**Directions:** For the first paper of the semester you will write 4-6 double spaced pages (not including graphs and bibliography) on the education-health gradient. I want you to find an example where a health behavior, or health status (as measured by one of many different ways), or a health related outcome are correlated with the level of education. The correlation can be positive or negative. For example some previous research finds that education levels are positively correlated with rates of obesity, particularly for women, less so for men. I want you to identify an education-health correlation different than the example I gave. Please find and present data and research to support the existence of an education health gradient. Your paper should describe the correlation, the strength or weakness, and whether it has been consistent across time. Can you identify the causal mechanism? What is causing the relationship between education and health? Use research to support your argument.

The bulk of your paper should then be spent on identifying the potential causal relationship which is driving the correlation. Your paper needs to articulate if you think the effect is mostly income (which is correlated with education), causally education, or education is merely selecting for another characteristic such as time preference which causally affects the health behavior/outcome/etc.

**Resources:** Here are three articles which you might find helpful:

Ichiro Kawachi, Nancy E. Adler, and William H. Dow “Money, schooling, and health: Mechanisms and Causal Evidence” <http://goo.gl/BtnqZ>

Conti, G, J Heckman, and S Urzua. “The Education-Health Gradient.” American Economic Review 100, no. 2 (n.d.): 234. <http://goo.gl/97kyU>

Cutler, David M, and Adriana Lleras-muney. “Education and Health Evaluating Theories and Evidence,” 2006. <http://goo.gl/luxYY>

**Due Date:** The paper is due in the course D2L drop box under Paper #1 by midnight central time March 16, 2013.

**Evaluation:** Two useful rubrics to consult to provide guidance are the CBA writing rubric (<http://goo.gl/YUHAV>) and the CBA critical thinking rubric (<http://goo.gl/r1FVJ>).