Class #12: Community Supports
Discussion Questions for October 3
Readings: Klinenberg, Stack

Because writing assignments are meant to prepare you for class discussions, you must post a draft question on the Moodle Forum for this date if you want your submission to count. After posting a draft, you must revise and resubmit your final response for a grade by the following Sunday night. In the case of questions posted below, the final draft of your question is due by the end of the day on Sunday, **October 6**. Include your name, the full question number, and the text of the question on both your draft and final submissions.

12-1 Klinenberg tells about two neighborhoods in Chicago and about how neighborhood structure affected the likelihood that seniors would survive the lethal heat wave that is the subject of his book. This happened because the seniors were involved in social networks to different extents in the two neighborhoods. Be specific and tell what networks you see Klinenberg describing. Why do the networks differ between the two neighborhoods. Again being specific, tell why the networks affected whether or not seniors survived.

12-2 The giving and exchange system Stack describes has positives and negatives. What are these and how do you assess the positives and negatives of the system?

*On one hand exchange seems essential to survival for very low income people. On the other hand, the obligation to give might block opportunities for upward mobility.*

12-3 How does the giving and exchange system that Stack describes relate to social capital in that community? Is this kind of social capital all good?

*Look back at Putnam, tell what he says are key elements of social capital, and tell in specific terms how those elements are described by Stack. The kind of social capital we see in The Flats creates strong, sharply drawn community boundaries. Think about what is positive about these boundaries, perhaps by relating to Klinenberg. Then think about whether there could be negative consequences of such boundaries.*