Special examination on Migration and Health

Directions: Please answer three of the following questions.

1. Compare and contrast the economic and cultural theories (pick one of each) that attempt to explain health differentials between the foreign born and native born in the US. How might health differentials change with increased duration of residence under economic approaches? How might they change under cultural approaches?

2. Describe and discuss ways in which expectations, perceptions, behaviors, language, and familial context help explain differences in self-reported mental health between Mexican immigrant women and non-Hispanic white native born women.

3. One or two recent studies have suggested that the notion of a “salmon bias” might be influencing the more-favorable-than-expected mortality outcomes for some Hispanic groups in the United States. How would you define what is known as the salmon bias? Is there evidence to support the notion of a salmon bias from current studies? If so, describe those studies. What kind of data would best allow you to test for the salmon bias hypothesis?

4. Describe the debate revolving around the importance of “migration selectivity” for the health outcomes of immigrant individuals in the United States. That is, what evidence (if any) supports the notion of a strong migration selectivity thesis, and what evidence (if any) refutes the notion of a strong migration selectivity thesis? How would you go about trying to understand how migration selectivity is influencing health outcomes in the United States?

5. What do we know about the association between age at immigration and the physical and mental health of immigrants? What is known about age as a selection factor for immigration, as well as health? Is there evidence that aspects of the migration process may interact with age to influence the health of men and women?