Strength of weak ties on Facebook
(Assignment 5, Due: Wednesday, March 27, 2013)
Sociology 204: Social Networks
Remember to write your name and precept on your assignment and staple it!

1) Of your friends on Facebook, please list the first name of the 5 to which you have the strongest tie; use Granovetter’s definition of tie strength on page 1361.

For each friend write down:
a) How many friends do they have?
b) How many friends do you have in common?
c) What proportion of your collective friends are in common? In other words, let S be the set of people connected to just you or just your friend or both of you (i.e., friend’s degree + your degree – number of shared friends). Let C be the set of friends that you have in common. What is |C|/|S|?

2) Of your friends on Facebook, please list the first name of the 5 to which you have the weakest tie; use Granovetter’s definition of tie strength on page 1361. Complete the calculations from question 1 for each of them.

3) Describe a procedure to randomly select 10 friends from your list of friends on Facebook.

4) Use the procedure in question (3) to generate a list of 10 randomly selected friends. For these 10 randomly selected friends, complete the calculations from question 1.

5) Do your results support Granovetter’s prediction on page 1362? Explain. Be precise and use numbers. If there are any outliers to the general pattern, please explain them as well.