

Crime and Justice Comprehensive Exam—January 2017
University of Florida, January 19, 20, 21 (10 am-4 pm each day over three days)
Exam Committee: Jodi Lane (Chair) and Dick Hollinger

Directions: **You will answer 3 questions total.** You have a maximum limit of 10 double-spaced pages per answer (not including references). Please remember to double space your answers, add page numbers, and put the question number (or question itself) before each of your answers. You should also put your name on each page. Also, please add a references list. You may email your answers to the committee **no later 4 pm on the day you receive the question** (jlane@ufl.edu, rhollin@ufl.edu).

Day 1 (January 19, Thursday) (Choose one question to answer)

- 1) Select a topic of contemporary interest in criminal justice policy related to the police, the courts, the correctional system. Write a review essay on that topic which provides an overview of the nature and significance of that topic for social policy. Make sure that you offer some criminological theory insights or research observations that help inform the understanding or evaluation of this particular policy issue. (last used April 2009)
- 2) Identify and discuss the significance of three major works (classic or current) you consider to be pivotal to the **development of courts and sentencing research**. Describe the contribution of these three works and explain why you have chosen them. (JL/January 2017)

Day 2 (January 20, Friday) (Choose one question to answer)

- 1) Recent reports from the Department of Justice have found patterns of problematic behavior in police departments such as Ferguson, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois. Assume you have been hired as criminological expert to advise these police departments on the research regarding the important constitutional amendments and evidence-based police practices that can help reduce crime without infringing on personal constitutional rights. Citing the research, write a policy brief style essay informing the police chiefs of your findings and recommendations (JL/January 2017).
- 2) Many scholars have written about the problems of mass incarceration in recent years. Assuming policymakers could overcome the political fights and backlash associated with reducing mass incarceration, how would you recommend they reallocate the projected cost savings to control crime? Citing the relevant theoretical and empirical literature, explain how you would reinvest the savings from reducing correctional populations into one or more of the following areas: social programs, crime prevention programs, policing, and community corrections. (Borrowed and adapted from UT Dallas, Spring 2011 exam)

Day 3 (January 21, Saturday) (Choose one question to answer)

- 1) In recent years, mass shooting incidents have affected many groups, including children (e.g., Newtown, CT), adults (e.g., Orlando, FL), and police officers (e.g., Dallas, TX), keeping the gun debate at the forefront on policy and public discussions about crime. Based on the research literature, make a convincing argument for what you believe should be done to reduce gun crime. (JL/January 2017)
- 2) If money were no consideration and you were the director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, what are the top three policy efforts you would focus on to reduce juvenile crime (e.g., as legislative and funding priorities), and why? Use the theoretical, empirical, and policy literature to support your arguments. (JL/January 2017)