

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 or 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) According to Rosenfeld (2011:3), "mass incarceration has become the criminological issue of our time." Assuming one could overcome the political obstacles associated with reducing mass incarceration, how should the projected cost savings be redistributed 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 from UT Dallas, Spring 2011 exam*)

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 (JL/January 2017).
- 2) Crime continues to decrease nationally and in most states. Write an essay in which you document these changes and explain why the decreases have or have not occurred. Be sure to relate your explanations to criminal justice research and theory. (Last used 2008)

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

- 1) In recent years, the Innocence Project has been instrumental in securing the release of innocent people from prison and death row due either to DNA or non-DNA evidence. Consider the following issues within the context of criminological theory and research: 1) What does innocence really mean in the context of the criminal justice system? Are those considered innocent necessarily so? 2) What are at least three problems that likely lead to innocent people being arrested, convicted and imprisoned? 3) What do you believe is the single most important policy change we could make to reduce the imprisonment of innocent people, and why do you think this is the best choice? Be sure to support your argument with criminological literature. (JL/Sept 16)
- 2) Make an argument for whether white-collar crime or street crime is a greater problem for the American public. Be sure to cite at least three factors that you believe point to your choice being the bigger problem and support your points with criminological literature. (JL/Sept 2016)