

Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam

Fall Semester 2016

Instructions

You must address one of the following three questions in your policy paper. Generally, each topic requires you to review, analyze, and synthesize the literature as it pertains to a particular policy area and draw conclusions or make recommendations based on your findings. Please be sure you read the entire question and address all parts of it.

The Fall 2016 exam will be distributed on Thursday 9/15/2016 by Shamauri Jenkins. Both a paper and electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Ms. Jenkins by noon on Tuesday 11/15/2016. Late examinations will not be accepted and will result in a failing score. Please note that once you receive the comprehensive examination, you are required to submit an examination paper by the deadline; otherwise your exam will receive a failing score. If you experience extenuating circumstances that interfere with your ability to complete your comprehensive exam, you should notify the graduate program director immediately. Please make sure your exam complies with the following submission requirements:

- You have written a response to one of the three questions on the exam.
- Your submission should contain 4 parts: (1) an Executive Summary (2-3 pages briefly outlining the contents of your paper); (2) a Policy Paper (20-25 pages in length); (3) a separate List of References (which does not count against the page limit); and (4) a signed Honor Pledge. Please note that students receiving assistance from the University's writing center is considered a violation of the Honor Pledge. (not including the cover page and reference list).
- You do not identify yourself anywhere within the document other than on the cover page. You will be assigned an identification code for each question so your answers can be linked to your name after grading is complete.

- Your identification code is typed on both the cover page and the top right-hand corner of each page of your answer.
- You follow the APA format, with 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spacing, and 1-inch margins throughout your answer.
- You have checked your document to ensure that you have not plagiarized. Any finding of plagiarism will result in a failing score on the exam. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please see <http://plagiarism.org/>.
- You provide a signed honor pledge indicating that you neither gave nor received assistance with the comprehensive examination.
- Be sure to use a well-developed list of academic sources (i.e., no Wikipedia and if necessary, a very limited number of popular media sources such as newspapers, magazines, etc.).

When possible (i.e., when there are two or more test takers), your comprehensive examination will be graded in a double-blind manner – neither you nor the faculty graders will know each others identities (though students may know who the graders are after grades have been assigned). A committee of the entire regular graduate faculty (excepting faculty members on leave or on sabbatical) will grade all examination questions. To pass the exam, at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the grading faculty members must give your exam a passing score (a grade of “pass” or “high pass”). To earn a “high pass”, at least 90% of the grading faculty must assign a grade of “high pass.” Students who fail this examination are permitted to retake it one additional time.

Your Exam Identification Code: _____

Honor Pledge: In accordance with the ideals set forth in the Carolinian Creed, I hereby pledge that I neither gave nor received assistance on this examination.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Exam Questions (Please Answer One):

- The school-to-prison pipeline is an emerging issue within the field of criminology and juvenile justice. Your paper should review the extant literature on the topic (considering both what is known and not yet known or well understood). Your paper should also discuss recommendations to policy makers for addressing this problem making reference to the appropriate literature.
- The U.S. Department of Justice recently vowed to close all privatized prisons in the next coming years. Your essay should: (1) review the historical, theoretical, and empirical literature on use and criticisms of for-profit incarceration; and (2) discuss the policy implications of forthcoming closures based on this literature.
- U.S. policing has gone through several paradigm shifts throughout its history. In other words, the ways in which police do business has changed. Your task in this essay is to trace the historical progression of American policing over the past 50 years. In particular, you should cover the primary trends in policing that have occurred (e.g., problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, procedural justice policing, and evidence-based policing, to name a few). You should describe each policing strategy and provide an overview of the relevant empirical literature.