

Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam

Spring Semester 2019

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 Spring 2019 exam is being distributed on Friday, February 8, 2019 between 9:00am and 12:00pm by Dr. Koons-Witt in Currell Room 201. Both a paper and electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Dr. Koons-Witt **between 9:00am and 12:00pm on Monday, April 8, 2019**. 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 contains FOUR parts: (1) an Executive Summary (2-3 pages briefly outlining the contents of your paper); (2) a Policy Paper (20-25 pages in length, not including the cover); (3) a separate List of References **formatted using APA** (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.
- ✓ **You have not identified 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 (i.e., header) of each page of your answer. (*see attached example page*)
- ✓ You followed 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 <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/> or <http://plagiarism.org/>.
- ✓ You provided a signed honor pledge indicating that you neither gave nor received assistance with the comprehensive examination.
- ✓ You used a well-developed list of academic sources (i.e., no Wikipedia and if necessary, no popular media sources except in a very limited way if needed).

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 other’s identities. A three-member committee of graduate faculty will grade all examination questions. To pass the exam, at least 2 of the 3 grading faculty members must give your exam a passing score (a grade of “pass” or “high pass”). To earn a “high pass”, all grading faculty members must assign a grade of “high pass.” Students who fail this examination are permitted to retake it one additional time.

Exam Questions (*Please Answer One*):

1. There has been substantial debate regarding the possible link between immigrants (legal and illegal) and crime in the United States. In fact, President Trump recently stated that:

“So here are just a few statistics on the human toll of illegal immigration. According to a 2011 government report, the arrests attached to the criminal alien population included an estimated 25,000 people for homicide, 42,000 for robbery, nearly 70,000 for sex offenses, and nearly 15,000 for kidnapping. In Texas alone, within the last seven years, more than a quarter million criminal aliens have been arrested and charged with over 600,000 criminal offenses. You don’t hear that.” (See: <https://www.apnews.com/988f28a5e7d2409e94225a3e05a4b7f0>.)

Write a policy essay in which you: (1) discuss historical and contemporary arguments made by opponents and proponents regarding this debate; (2) review the empirical research on the link between immigration and crime, and (3) based on your review what policy recommendations would you make regarding the immigration-crime debate?

2. The prison system in your state is thinking about committing funds to support arts programs for inmates (e.g., art, music, theatre). Officials have asked you to review these programs and determine if this is a good use of their limited resources. What types of programs are available, and do we know what impact they have on inmate participants? Based on your review and findings, would you recommend that the prison system spend money on providing these types of programs to inmates?
3. Predictive policing has become an increasingly common crime control strategy adopted by agencies over the last decade. Summarize empirical evidence on the effectiveness of predictive policing strategies in reducing crime. What are other advantages and disadvantages police agencies should consider (e.g. police-community relationships, financial cost, etc.) before implementing these strategies?



DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Honor Pledge – Spring 2019

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: _____ Date: _____