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Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam
Fall Semester 2023

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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 2023 exam is being distributed on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 9:00am by Dr. Applegate through a password-protected electronic copy. You will confirm receipt of the exam through email between 9:00am and 12:00pm, and upon confirmation, receive a password to open the exam. An electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Dr. Applegate between 9:00am and 12:00pm on Friday, October 27, 2023. Late examinations will not be accepted and will result in a failing score. Please note that once you receive the password to open the comprehensive examination document, 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 (Dr. Applegate) 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 on this exam from the University's writing center or any individual, group, or artificial intelligence 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 (XXXX)** 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://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_conduct_and_academic_integrity/academic_integrity/index.php
    - ○ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/avoiding_plagiarism/is_it_plagiarism.html
    - ○ or http://plagiarism.org/.

✓ You provided a signed Honor Pledge indicating that you neither gave nor received assistance with the comprehensive examination. Please email the signed Honor Pledge as a separate attachment.

✓ You used a well-developed list of academic sources (i.e., no Wikipedia and 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 <u>One</u>*):

- Public safety is a central goal of probation, and completing a probation sentence with no new criminal offenses and no revocation of community supervision is typically regarded as a "success." Review the empirical literature on what promotes success on probation, with a particular focus on recent developments in evidence-based practices in community supervision. Based on the body of research findings, offer a set of concrete recommendations for successful probation supervision.

- What role should criminological theory play in criminal legal policy and procedures? Present your answer in a debate style presenting your argument, the counter argument, and a rebuttal. Make sure to synthesize, integrate, and extrapolate the extant literature to produce each element of your debate. Make sure to include explicit examples.

- Co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders (CODs) are an issue among U.S. incarcerated individuals. In reviewing the relevant literature on this issue, first, describe the prevalence of the problem in state prisons across the United States. Second, discuss how prison systems are responding to the issue (i.e., programming, services, disciplinary or management policies, etc.). Finally, based on your review of the literature, discuss recommendations you would make to a state department of corrections to address CODs in their population.

XXXX

[Example of Cover Sheet]

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Fall 2023

"Topic"

Student Name

Executive Summary