

Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam Spring Semester 2017

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 2017 exam will be distributed on Tuesday 2/14/2017 by Shamauri Jenkins. Both a paper and electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Ms. Jenkins by noon on Friday 4/14/2017. 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):

- An image largely portrayed in the media is that immigration has led to increases in crime. The relevance of this statement can have an important impact on public policy. Review the existing literature regarding the immigration-crime link. What do we know about the relationship between immigration and crime? What policy recommendations would you make with this knowledge?
- Recently, local governments have considered allowing exceptions to mandatory bar closing times (typically 2:00 AM), allowing some clubs to remain open later. To counter concerns about increases in crime when a bar is open later, a bar must include a plan for controlling (or even reducing) crime in its proposal for an exception. You have been asked to provide guidelines against which each proposal can be evaluated. In developing your guidelines, review the literature on crime prevention with a special emphasis on place-based crime prevention techniques. Discuss the theoretical context, and draw on the empirical literature to specify what measures are effective/ineffective. Use these insights to outline what elements a bar's proposal should include.
- Deterrence theory guides the basic functioning of the US criminal justice system. Within your exam response you should address the following issues: (1) deterrence theory's key propositions, (2) the role deterrence theory plays in shaping the actions and policies of the components of the criminal justice system (i.e., policing, courts/sentencing, and corrections), and (3) our empirical knowledge concerning deterrence theory (e.g., does research support the theory, what components of the theory work better than others, etc.). Finally, you should (4) provide policy recommendations on how each of the components of the criminal justice system (i.e., policing, courts/sentencing, and corrections) can improve its operations and decision making based on what research tells us about the utility of deterrence theory. Your recommendations must be grounded in empirical research and logically defended.