

**Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam**  
**Spring Semester 2018**

**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 2018 exam will be distributed on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 by Donna Cronin. Both a paper and electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Ms. Shamauri Jenkins **by noon** on Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2018. 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 (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 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. (*see attached example page*)
- ✓ 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 <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/> or <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 other’s identities. 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 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.

**Exam Questions (*Please Answer One*):**

1. With the recent influx of “fake news,” attention has been drawn to the role of the media in social life. Using theoretical and empirical research, detail how the media influences criminal justice policy decisions, and the consequences of false media images in the context of criminal justice. Use at least two modern day examples to demonstrate your arguments.
2. In the 1966 case, *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court placed constitutional limitations on police custodial interrogation of adults. These procedural rights were later made applicable to juveniles taken into custody in *In re Gault* and *Kent v. United States*. Write an essay in which you: (1) discuss juvenile Miranda rights, including under what circumstances juveniles can waive these rights, (2) review and describe the rationale of the major US Supreme Court cases that have influenced the custodial interrogation of juveniles, and (3) outline the relevant empirical evidence on which these decisions have been based.
3. In the wake of Ferguson and Freddie Gray incidents, there has been a renewed focus on the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color. Among other things, scholars have begun to wrestle with what has contributed to the deteriorating relationship between these communities and law enforcement. According to some, the opinion of the police held by communities of color is reaching historic lows.

This question requires you to do two things. First, explore the empirical literature that examines the historical and contemporary relationship between the police and communities of color. Second, extrapolate from this literature to solutions that can be offered to improve this relationship and reduce the level of distrust shown by the residents of these communities.



DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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### **Honor Pledge – Spring 2018**

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: \_\_\_\_\_