

Southern University at New Orleans





**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE MASTERS of ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
DEGREE**

The Master's Criminal justice comprehensive examination (i.e., Comp Exam) is a written examination required of all graduate students who are non-thesis option and are near the end of the graduate degree program. The Comp Exam assesses the student's knowledge and capacities to earn a given graduate degree. Students are to demonstrate proficiency in the study of Criminal Justice and in particularly the selected concentration area (law enforcement, corrections, or juvenile justice); criminological theory; research methods and statistics. All Criminal Justice MA graduate students in their third semester or more are encouraged attending the Comp Reviews.

Procedures to follow before the COMP EXAM.

To take the Comp Exam Students must complete the Application for Comprehensive Examination. Applications must be completed via electronic form and submitted to any graduate professor-Dr. R. Delaney, Dr. F. Scott, Dr. D. Roberts, Dr. D. Gil or Dr. J. Penny. Applications may be obtained from the graduate professor previously mentioned via email. A link will be emailed to the applicant which ask for specific information to ensure the appropriate test is linked to the applicant via the link.

Purpose of the COMP EXAM Review

The review is designed for students and one or more faculty to sit down and talk about the exam and what to expect. Preparation for the comprehensive exam should help you become better able to integrate and utilize the knowledge you have gained in your graduate study. A link to the workshop will be shared after the scholar has submitted the application.

Keys & Tips on Studying for COMP EXAM

Organization

- ⇒ Make sure all your books and articles are on hand and organized so that you have quick and easy access to them.
- ⇒ Have good notes on all your readings and make sure your notes are organized.
- ⇒ Structure and organize your notes in a manner which will make them readily accessible when studying.
- ⇒ Know all authors you read and summarize them in 25-50 word paragraphs, in fact, have a complete bibliography formatted in APA of all citations you might use in your Comprehensive Exam. The preferred method is the annotated bibliography format.
- ⇒ For Criminology study different theories and different authors into categories that allow you to see how they relate to and are distinct from each other.
- ⇒ Know, compare and contrast major schools of thought in criminology; correctional Ideologies (punishment philosophies); criminal justice perspectives, management theories.
- ⇒ Work on the sample exam question preparation in groups. Working with others can help you share the labor of summarizing and reviewing material. You can work with others on identifying the critical literature and on developing answers to hypothetical test questions.
- ⇒ Class lecture notes are not acceptable sources-you must identify the original source of the information. Your textbooks are excellent resources as well as documentation for the course packs, handouts and journal articles. You can list your resources at the end of each question.



Time

- ⇒ Get some quiet time, that is, sufficient uninterrupted time.
- ⇒ Most students suggest that you not study the day before your comp, but rather take the day off and rest up. Also, plan on taking three days off after the comp is over to recover.

Write & Take Practice Test

- ⇒ Take practice comp exams-repeat, repeat, repeat.

Direction for Writing Comp Exam Answers

- ⇒ Make sure you answer the questions explicitly and clearly. The most common comprehensive exam mistake is to not explicitly and clearly answer the question. Read the question very carefully and make sure that you offer an explicit answer to the question.
- ⇒ Make appropriate reference to the literature and relevant scholarly debates. You should demonstrate familiarity with the basic literature. You should be able to appropriately reference the scholars whose arguments are relevant to a particular issue. You may occasionally include the name of a book or article and the date of its publication.
- ⇒ Make appropriate use of theory and of empirical and historical knowledge. If appropriately done, it is particularly effective to use theory to inform answers on history questions and history to inform answers on theory questions.
- ⇒ Write full answers that are structured with an introduction and conclusion. As in all writing, structure and organization are important to effective communication. Provide a clear introduction and conclusion that can help you summarize your central point and will reassure the readers that you have, in fact, explicitly answered the question.
- ⇒ You must provide legitimate sources/references (at least three per question) in APA citation format [for example, Jones (1999) studied the effects...;

Getting the Comp Exam results

The exam will be graded by a committee of the CJ graduate faculty. It takes a minimum of three weeks for the examinations to be scored. After the examination is scored, student will be notified in writing of the results via email. The results will include a copy of any and all feedback provided by the reviewer.

Your answers will be reviewed in terms of:

- (1) How effectively you address each of the questions
- (2) How well you know and manage your facts
- (3) How soundly you handle and cite the literature
- (4) How well you have developed and organized your argument
- (5) The quality of your writing in alignment of APA.



Social Sciences Department
Criminal Justice Graduate Committee

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Part I – Area of Concentration Only

PLEASE READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!

Directions: Student please answer only the question that pertains to your area of concentration only. If your concentration is Juvenile Justice; answer only the Juvenile Justice Concentration questions only. Upon completion of part I move on to Part II of the exam and follow the direction accordingly.

NOTE:

You will be required to paste your responses in the appropriate question thread via the Learning Management System.

Scholars should consider pasting the question being answered and their response. Immediately following your response, be sure to paste all in-text citations used in each response. If you run out of line spaces, you may have to delete a few spaces in the system.

If you have difficulties, please email Dr. Delaney rdelaney@suno.edu

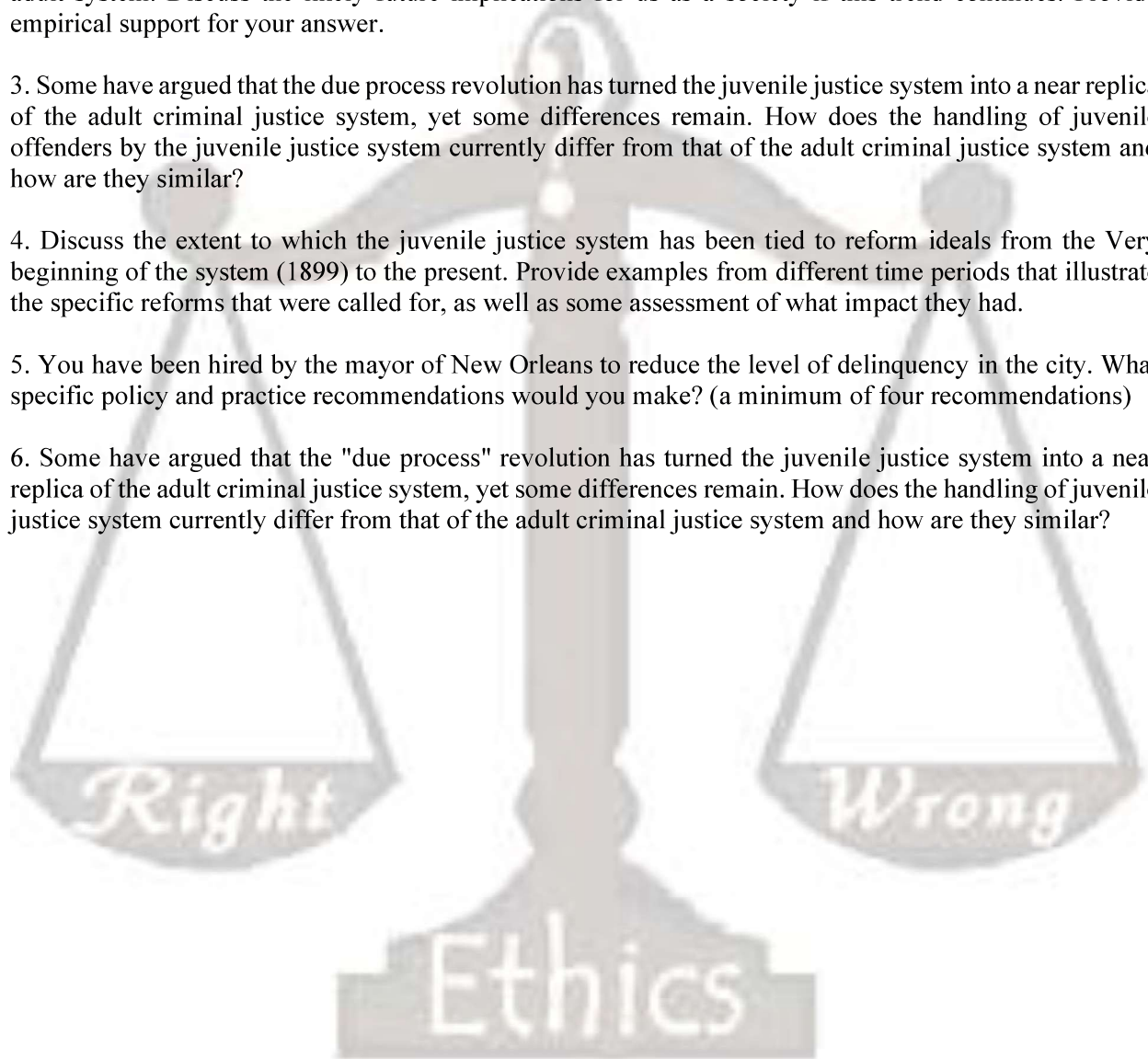
Please acknowledge receipt of this examination via the request sent and/or by responding to this email.

Your response is due by November 13, 2020 by 5:00 pm. Via Moodle only.



Juvenile Justice Concentration

1. The juvenile system has embraced rehabilitation and more recently punishment philosophies. Discuss how these have been utilized in the juvenile justice system.
2. Describe the current United States atmosphere of transferring younger and younger Juveniles into the adult system. Discuss the likely future implications for us as a society if this trend continues. Provide empirical support for your answer.
3. Some have argued that the due process revolution has turned the juvenile justice system into a near replica of the adult criminal justice system, yet some differences remain. How does the handling of juvenile offenders by the juvenile justice system currently differ from that of the adult criminal justice system and how are they similar?
4. Discuss the extent to which the juvenile justice system has been tied to reform ideals from the Very beginning of the system (1899) to the present. Provide examples from different time periods that illustrate the specific reforms that were called for, as well as some assessment of what impact they had.
5. You have been hired by the mayor of New Orleans to reduce the level of delinquency in the city. What specific policy and practice recommendations would you make? (a minimum of four recommendations)
6. Some have argued that the "due process" revolution has turned the juvenile justice system into a near replica of the adult criminal justice system, yet some differences remain. How does the handling of juvenile justice system currently differ from that of the adult criminal justice system and how are they similar?





Part II – CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY; RESEARCH, and STATISTICS QUESTIONS

PLEASE READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY!

Directions: Student are to answer three (3) of the six (6) Criminological Theory Questions: Three (3) of the ten (10) Research Questions: and Three (3) of the ten (10) Statistics Questions. Your answers must follow the same format as in the directions given above.

Criminology Theory Questions

1. Contrast the three schools of Criminology, Include in your discussion the name the founders and significant proponents. What are their major premises? Name at least three theories belonging to each school.

2. Many adolescents' commit crimes in groups with co-offenders. Explain the role of delinquent peers in co-offending from three of the following perspectives:

- a) Sub-cultural Theory
- b) Control Theory
- c) Strain Theory
- d) Learning Theory

Cite empirical support with your answer and identify specific theories and proponents associated with each selected theory.

3. If you were hired by the mayor of New Orleans to address the juvenile crime problem in the city, what juvenile justice practices will you discuss? What specific recommendations would you make and why? How are those specific recommendations influenced by theory?

4. Using social control theory as your frame of reference, discuss:

- a) The major ideas behind the perspective (include domain assumptions and the questions the perspective asks);
- b) How it differs from "anomie" or "strain" theory;
- c) Major criticisms that have been made of the approach; and
- d) The applicability of the approach to criminal justice.

5. Learning theory has played an important role in criminology. Discuss social learning theories of crime and delinquency. Who were the major writers/proponents? Was there ever a common position? And finally, list some of the more recent (last five years) empirical for these theories.

6. A criminological issue that has been in the public spotlight in the recent years involves youth violence in the schools and the specific issue of bullying. Choose one theory of crime causation (criminology) to explain the existence of either schoolyard shootings or bullying. How do the theorists account for either of the crime (depending on whether you selected school shootings or bullying)?



Research Questions

1. The use of secondary data poses certain methodological problems when studying issues related to crime and delinquency. Describe some of the challenges of working with secondary data and detail which steps in the research process are critical to overcome these challenges. Please provide appropriate citations.
2. Quasi-experimental designs are commonly employed in criminal justice research. Explain why this is so. What are some of the weaknesses associated with quasi-experimental design? Describe how these weaknesses may be mitigated through addition of particular design elements.
3. Often in juvenile justice quasi-experiments are necessary instead of experimental studies. Design such a study. Clearly state the research question and method of analysis. Discuss possible threats to internal validity and how you might address them.
4. Discuss the stages of the social science research process. Create an outline of each consideration with brief explanations of why the researcher must consider each issue to produce valid and useful research.
5. Ethics has become an important question in research and in much academic discipline. Disclose what you know about ethics in research provide your explanation for why it has become an important topic today (in contrast with previous years).
6. How might qualitative research methods be combined with quantitative research methods to improve juvenile justice research?
7. Discuss the concepts of validity and reliability in research. How are these assessed in research? Discuss threats to each that may be neutralized/lessened through research design or statistical analysis.
8. The use of secondary data poses certain methodological problems when studying issues related to crime and delinquency. Describe some of the challenges.
9. Define the levels of measurement used in social research. Give criminal justice example of variables measured at these levels and some of the statistical techniques that could be used with these variables.
10. Distinguish the nature of quantitative research from that of qualitative research. Thoroughly discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both quantitative and qualitative research.

Ethics



Statistics Questions

1. Choose any parametric statistical technique and explain the purpose of the technique and the criteria or requirements for use. Give a criminal justice or juvenile justice example to illustrate the use of the technique, provide appropriate citations.
2. What are the most common statistical procedures used in criminal justice or juvenile justice research? Why are they the most common and what types of answers are typically provided by these procedures?
3. Describe the difference between measures of association and tests of statistical significance. Give an example of each that could be appropriately used with each levels of data (or measurement-nominal, ordinal, interval/ratio).
4. Distinguish between simple linear regression and multiple linear regression in terms of purpose, model, and assumptions
5. Identify and discuss the criteria of causality. Explain why correlation does not imply causation. Discuss issues of causation as they relate to cross sectional and longitudinal sample
- 6 Explain the differences between parametric statistical techniques and nonparametric statistical techniques. List the criteria (assumptions) for the use of each. Provide at least five examples of each type.
7. For three of the four statistical techniques listed below, present a concise description of a hypothetical research study (for each technique listed below) that would be amenable for each technique. Include in your answer state your independent (predictor) and dependent (outcome or criteria) variables; the operational definition of the variables in each hypothetical study.
 - a. Chi-square
 - b. Z-test
 - c. T-test for independent means
 - d. Logistical regression (also known as *logistic r*)
8. Logistical regression makes several assumptions. Identify and discuss these assumptions and the difficulties encountered if these assumptions are violated.
9. Define descriptive and inferential statistics. Provide examples of various techniques from each. What role does the null hypothesis play in statistical inference?
10. There are several statistical procedures available when the research questions focuses on determining the significance of differences between or among groups. Identify and describe these various statistical procedures and how you would decide which one would be appropriate in different research designs. Pay particular attention to the number and levels of measurement of the independent and dependent variables involved, the number of levels of the grouping variable(s), and the sample size.