

**Department of Justice, Law and Criminology**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
*Jurisprudence and Social Thought*  
**Spring, 2016**

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

- 1) Many contemporary policy debates over access to health care, education, civil justice, political power and even legal rights revolve around how best to distribute resources. Compare and contrast the views of Richard Nozick, Amartya Sen and Michael Walzer, about how any two of the resources listed above ought to be distributed. Which author has the better argument and why?
  
- 2) In June of 2014, ISIS claimed to be a caliphate (a government ruled by the laws of Islam). While the boundaries of the land it controls fluctuates, the group has consistently held a monopoly of power over a core piece of territory since that declaration. Nevertheless, the group is treated by the United States as a non-state terrorist organization and its leaders are subject to drone attacks based on the president's own decision. If ISIS were a sovereign law governed state, the President's ability to use force against it would be limited by international and US law. Write a memo to the President and Secretary of State explaining whether or not ISIS can be considered a state governed by law. Use the theories of Hart, Dworkin and one other legal theorist of your own choosing to explain what conditions need to be met in order to qualify as a law governed state. Which author has the better argument and why?
  
- 3) Recent controversies at Brown and Yale Universities have questioned the appropriate boundaries of free speech. Students at Brown set up a "safe room" to protect students from a debate over the use of the term "rape culture" in protecting woman from sexual assault. After the Dean of Yale College urged students not to wear Halloween costumes that might be offensive to people, a researcher in childhood development questioned the Institution's attempt to control student thought and suggested that being obnoxious was part of developing an appropriate sense of boundaries. Students then asked her husband, a master of a Yale undergraduate college to resign.  
  
Should speech be permitted which expresses contempt or hatred for other people? Answer from the perspective of both JS Mill and Catherine MacKinnon. Which author has the better argument and why?

- 4) In *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Max Weber emphasized the role of religion in explaining the rise of capitalism. Through this work, he sought to challenge the type of materialist explanations developed most famously by Karl Marx. Why did Weber find such materialist explanations to be one-sided? In his view what couldn't they account for? In analyzing the role of religion, how and why did he emphasize the differences between Protestantism and Catholicism? What evidence did he use to support these claims? Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Weber's thesis.

**Department of Justice, Law and Criminology**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
*Justice and Public Policy*  
**Spring, 2016**

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

1. The sentence of “life without the possibility of parole” (LWOP) is sometimes referred to as “America’s other death penalty.” Assess the validity of this claim in light of the literature on punishment. Should LWOP replace the death penalty? Should these punishments co-exist as examples of extreme sanctions? Should both of these extreme sanctions be replaced by life with the possibility of parole, in which case we would have no death sentence of any kind? Explain your answer. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
2. Identify what you consider to be the three most important improvements in policing during the past forty years and explain why and how they occurred. Be sure to explain why you consider these the most important. In your response be sure to describe and critically analyze the criminological research that was involved in these improvements. What aspect of policing do think is now in the most critical need of improvement? Why? What should criminologists be doing to address this area?
3. Some scholars have attributed problems such as use of excessive force and corruption among law enforcement agents to the “police culture.” What are some of the characteristics of police culture, and how might it lead to excessive use of force? Is community policing likely to change police culture and remedy some of its problems? Please cite the relevant literature in answering these questions.
4. The problem of prisoner re-entry is an important one for our times. Please think of three criminological theories and their implications for prisoners re-entering society. What do these theories say about the likelihood of recidivism? What are the policy implications for re-entry programming? Be sure to cite sources from the reading list.

**Department of Justice, Law and Criminology**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
***Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy***  
**Spring, 2016**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer any **two** of the following four questions. Include in your answers references to the relevant literature, case law, and/or other sources. Label each answer by number. Please begin each answer on a new page. Remember to write your 4-digit ID number on all pages. You have three hours in which to complete this examination.

1. On the evening of 13 November 2015, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, the capital of France, and its northern suburb, Saint-Denis. Three suicide bombers struck near the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, followed by suicide bombings and shootings at cafés, restaurants and a music venue in Paris. The Islamic State claimed the attacks, which killed 130 people. Some of the attackers were returned foreign fighters who had traveled to Syria to join the Islamic State. If you were advising the French president on what to do to prevent future such attacks, what would you recommend? Please cite the relevant literature to support your response.

2. In an interview in 2014, President Obama famously called ISIS, the JV (Junior Varsity) team for Global Terrorism. Of the violent organizations around the globe today, which are the three largest threats to US homeland security? Explain your rationale for inclusion and ranking these threats, citing scholarly materials and policy reports.

3. Explain the strengths and weaknesses of classifying ISIS as a terrorist group. How does this classification capture or not capture the group's aims/motivations, and what are its implications for countering ISIS? Please respond citing the relevant literature as appropriate.

4. Narcoterrorism is widely regarded as a type of terrorism, while genocide is not. Why is this? What case can be made for regarding genocide as a type of terrorism? For excluding narcoterrorism? Why do we have more controversy over defining terrorism than we do over defining crime? Would it be preferable to have a single definition for terrorism? Please cite the relevant literature to support your response.