

**Department of Justice, Law and Society**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
*Law and Society*  
**Fall, 2013**

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.

1. In their essay, "A Journey through Forgetting: Toward a Jurisprudence of Violence," Austin Sarat and Thomas Kearns argue that the concrete experience of violence inflicted on legal subjects and the role of violence in any modern legal system has too often been left obscure by both mainstream legal theorists and their radical critics. Explain and evaluate their critique of these approaches to the study of law. Explain and evaluate their own conception of a 'jurisprudence of violence.
2. Various feminist legal scholars argue that modern law and jurisprudence are inherently masculine. Can the law recognize the experience of women or other historically marginalized groups as unique yet still achieve the ideal of legal equality? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
3. With reference to at least three authors on the reading list, discuss whether the Western World has its own distinctive legal tradition.
4. What do scholars refer to when they say law "behaves"? Using at least three different theoretical traditions, please explain whether this is possible. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.

**Department of Justice, Law and Society**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
*Terrorism and National Security*  
**Fall, 2013**

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.

1. The Boston Marathon attack revealed much about the opportunities to commit acts of terrorism in the United States. It also revealed strengths and weaknesses in the ability of the U.S. system of homeland security to respond to such attacks. Enumerate those strengths and weaknesses, and spell out ways in which the U.S. can reduce opportunities for future such attacks, based on established principles of security and counterterrorism. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.

2. Some say terrorism is caused by religious extremism, others say by ethnic tribalism, still others by Western intrusions and other factors. How would you rank these in terms of their ability to explain the empirical evidence? What evidence supports your answer? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.

3. Which explanation for why suicide terrorism occurs do you find most persuasive? Provide evidence to support. Does this theory apply to all terrorism or just suicide terrorism? In other words, are the causes of suicide terrorism different from other acts of terrorism? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.

4. What are the main challenges democracies face in countering terrorism? How are democracies better positioned to confront terrorism? In what ways are they at a disadvantage? Compare how two different democracies have confronted terrorist threats, examining the ways the democratic process made countering terrorism more difficult, the ways it helped to address the problem, and "lessons learned" from their experiences in terms of the tradeoffs or security and liberties. Provide evidence to support your answers.

**Department of Justice, Law and Society**  
**Master's Comprehensive Examination**  
*Justice and Public Policy*  
**Fall, 2013**

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1. What are some reasons why people obey the law and why they do not obey the law? What role do the police play in the larger context of that decision? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
2. Theories that address the causes of crime do not all explain every type of crime and / or situation in which crime occurs. Choose three criminological theories and discuss the explanation offered for why crime occurs; the type of crime it explains (e.g., white collar, violent); and the setting in which the crime occurs. Be sure to cite the relevant literature.
- 3.
4. A major body of research has emerged on what approaches to violent crime are most effective in a democratic society. Drawing on the results of systematic evaluation research, discuss what methods police can draw on to address violent crime most effectively in their communities while upholding democratic ideals. Be sure to cite the relevant literature
5. As warden of a prison, you are called upon to give a 'welcome' or orientation speech to convicts entering your institution. You want to give them some insight into what they will face during their confinement. What does the research tell us about adjustment to prison, and how would you convey this body of work to the arriving prisoners? Be sure to cite the relevant literature.