**Criminology Comprehensive Exam POLICY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

**School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences**

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**October 2019**

**Instructions**

You have six (6) hours to complete the Policy portion of the comprehensive exam.

Your answers will be evaluated on their organization, coherence, clarity, intellectual rigor, substantive validity, conceptual development, and application of relevant literature to the question at hand.

Answers must be emailed to [scotch@utdallas.edu](mailto:scotch@utdallas.edu) before 4:00pm today (10/27/2019).

We wish you all success!

**POLICY QUESTIONS**

**Answer ONE of the following:**

Question 1

In September 2019, the Dallas City Mayor, Eric Johnson, convened a task force on safe communities that was designed to provide him with several non-law enforcement initiatives, policies, or programs that may be helpful in addressing the crime problem in Dallas. The Mayor has asked you to prepare the group’s recommendations. Based on the extant research on non-police actions designed to affect crime, what three strategies/initiatives would you recommend to the Mayor? Be sure to identify the evidence to support your position as well as the methodological strengths and weaknesses of the studies you cite.

Question 2

Recent criminal justice reforms have focused on various policies designed to reduce prison populations. However, some scholars have argued that current proposals will do little to reduce incarceration as they target low level, non-violent offenders. What should these reform efforts focus on to reduce prison populations and the race and ethnic disparity in incarceration? You may propose reforms in any area (crime prevention, policing, prosecutors, sentencing, corrections) that you think will be most effective in reducing incarceration, but be sure to consider the impact of your policy throughout the process. Your answer must be based on empirical evidence and also discuss the methodological strengths and weaknesses of the research you cite.