**Criminology Comprehensive Exam THEORY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

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

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**May 2020**

**Instructions**

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

Your answer will be evaluated on its 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 before 4:00pm today (5/2/2020). Please do not incorporate any identifying information on what you submit.

We wish you success!

**THEORY QUESTIONS**

**Answer ONE of the following:**

Question 1

Discuss the development of one micro- and one macro- criminological theory.  Your answer will need to include: (a) a detailed overview of how the theory explains at least one correlate of crime, (b) the major transitions or turning points of the theory over the course of its development, (c) a review of recent tests of the theory, and (d) detail the major critique(s) of each theory.

Question 2

Given the recent pandemic, major cities have reported significant drops in their crime rates. You have been asked to serve on the COVID-19 Task Force for the City. Your job is to: 1) Explain this crime drop and (2) Make suggestions for how the City may decrease the likelihood that crime will increase to pre-pandemic levels once the restrictions end. Be sure to identify a theory or theories that has/have the most explanatory power and support your answer with empirical research.