**Criminology Comprehensive Exam POLICY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

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

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**May 1, 2022**

**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 (5/1/2022).

We wish you success!

**POLICY QUESTIONS**

**Answer ONE of the following:**

Question 1

Despite various penal reform efforts, some scholars argue that the U.S. still has a problem of mass incarceration and that focusing on the economic costs to state budgets or racial biases and disparities will not lead to real reform. Is mass incarceration still a problem and, if so, what should a reform agenda include? What back-end (i.e., release) policies should we adopt, expand or delete? What front-end (i.e., admission) policies should we adopt, expand or delete? Why? Make sure to cite relevant literature and discuss the methodological issues pertinent to the field.

Question 2

Crime prevention can broadly be thought of as any policy or practice shown to result in less crime than would occur without the policy or practice. As a nationally recognized criminologist, you have been asked to identify and describe how you would design and implement a successful crime prevention program. Be sure to provide: (1) a review of relevant literature; (2) research questions(s); (3) a description of the target population; and (4) a description of the study design (e.g., experimental, quasi-experimental), including how you will evaluate the success or failure of the program.