**Criminology Comprehensive Exam POLICY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

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

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**November 5, 2023**

**Instructions**

You have six (6) hours to complete the Policy 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 [richard.scotch@utdallas.edu](mailto:richard.scotch@utdallas.edu) before 4:00pm today (11/5/2023).

We wish you success!

**POLICY QUESTIONS**

**Answer ONE of the following:**

Question 1

Crime policy includes anything intended to prevent or control crime (e.g., laws, agency decisions, programmatic interventions). What considerations help researchers decide when a crime policy “works” or that it is “evidence-based?”  A good answer should touch not just on research design considerations, but also on how/when to put confidence in statistical results, policy implementation, and both theoretical and conceptual frameworks underlying policy. Use specific examples from the literature to support your answer.

Question 2

Millions of individuals in the United States possess criminal records. Once individuals leave the justice system, their criminal record makes it challenging to reintegrate back into society without facing numerous restrictions. To combat this issue, many states have implemented expungement policies that allow individuals to have their criminal records cleared. For this question, imagine that you have been consulted by a state looking to implement expungement policies. Using your knowledge of the literature, elaborate on how clearing an individuals' criminal record (i.e., expungement) might impact a) individuals with criminal records, b) society in general, and c) the criminal justice system. Your next task is to design a study that can test the following research question: "What is the effect of an expungement on crime?" Be sure to explain and justify your hypothesis of this relationship based on the literature, a proposed sampling strategy, the research design, and analytical plan.