

**Theory Comprehensive Exam
Fall 2016**

Day One

Instructions: For this section of the exam answer any two (2) of the following four questions. If more than two answers are submitted the committee will read only the first two and the third will not be counted in any way. All responses are to be turned in no later than 12:45.

Once a student takes possession of the examination, this will be regarded as an attempt to take the exam regardless of whether the student completes the exam, hands in any answers or remains for the full exam period.

1. Labeling and deterrence theories posit essentially opposite consequences from the application of legal sanctions. Both approaches have met with mixed empirical support and criticism through the years. Discuss the basic tenets of each and assess the current state of empirical evidence in relation to the viability of each approach.
2. William Julius Wilson argues that the disappearance of work and the consequences of that disappearance for economic, social and cultural life are central problems in the inner-city urban ghetto that contribute to higher rates of offending and victimization. Drawing on theoretical and empirical literature, how would you assess Wilson's argument?
3. There has been a long established finding that men offend more than women. Identify two theories that explain gender disparities in offending and discuss the current state of empirical evidence in relation to this issue.
4. Describe the evolution and relevant empirical evidence in relation to one of these theories:

Social Learning Theory

Social Disorganization