

**DEVIANCE, LAW AND SOCIAL CONTROL
WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

August 22, 1994

PART II. AFTERNOON

A. ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Criminologists have long advocated longitudinal studies to better understand the manifestations and causes of crime. Until recently the major work was the cohort studies of Marvin Wolfgang and his associates. Today we have the life-course research of David Farrington and colleagues, and even more recently, the reanalysis of the Glueck's massive data set from the 1920s and 1930s by Robert Sampson and John Laub (*Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life*).

- a. Describe the cohort and life-course approaches to understanding criminal behavior and the major findings of these bodies of research.
- b. Critically evaluate the work of Farrington and of Sampson and Laub, focusing on their data and research methodology.

2. Review the literature on the relationship between illegal behavior and mental illness. Are mentally ill people more or less likely than others to commit illegal acts, to be detected, and to be processed as law breakers? Do persons with mental illness have different experiences within the criminal justice system? Why? Cite relevant research and theory.

B. ANSWER ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THREE QUESTIONS:

1. The murders of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman, and the arrest of O. J. Simpson, have focussed attention of spouse abuse. Sociologists have conducted both basic and policy-relevant research on this topic for the past 20 years.

The major policy relevant research grows out of the Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment. The results of that experiment, published by Sherman and Berk in 1984 and subsequently, led to several projects in other cities which were designed to replicate the Minneapolis study.

- a. What did the Minneapolis Experiment involve, that is, what was the "independent" and the "dependent" variables? What was the conceptual or theoretical rationale for the experiment?

(see page 3 for b., c., and d.)

- b. Summarize the findings of this body of research. What are the effects of the arrest policy? Consider the outcomes for victims, offenders, and the impact as measured by official statistics.
- c. Evaluate these studies from a methodological viewpoint. What are the strengths of these projects? What are their weaknesses?
- d. Discuss the implications of these findings, in light of your methodological evaluation, for social policy. Does the evidence justify arrest for spouse abuse? Should all abusers be arrested, or should there be alternative "treatments" for some types of offenders?

2. In his article "Why the 'Haves' Come Out Ahead," Marc Galanter uses the subtitle "Speculations on the Limits of Legal Change." Concern about the limits of the law--the many ways in which public laws are rendered ineffective by citizens, organizations and officials--is at the heart of much legal sociology, both in the civil and criminal areas. From Roscoe Pound to Donald Black scholars have offered explanations for the limits of effective legal action.

Present the major arguments about the limits of the law, and the specific, reliable knowledge available regarding these arguments. In your answer be sure to address the following and to cite the relevant literature:

- a. What are the limits on effective legal actions discussed in the literature? What areas of law are most implicated?
- b. What social and legal causal factors account for limits of effective legal action? According to the experts, can these limits be overcome?
- c. Critically evaluate the reasoning and the research behind the limits arguments.