

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN SOCIOLOGY OF LAW AND CRIME
FEBRUARY 1-5, 2021**

You are required to answer THREE (3) QUESTIONS (ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF PARTS A, B & C). Each answer should be 10-12 pages (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (12-point font, double-spaced and standard margins) not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

Part A

1. Since the 1960s, the law and society movement in the United States has been a major force in shaping the landscape of the sociology of law and producing its theoretical approaches. In recent years, scholarships from both the Global South and Indigenous law have challenged or problematized some of these U.S.-centric approaches. Select at least two different areas in the sociology of law and write an essay to analyze how the emerging Indigenous and/or Global South studies of law and society engage with the “mainstream” approaches developed in the U.S. or other Western contexts.
2. Sociolegal researchers have examined many organizational contexts in which law is mediated or constrained by institutional forces, such as courts, law firms, companies, government offices, and international organizations. In your essay, present and critically review the theoretical perspectives and empirical studies for understanding law in organizations. Which perspective do you find the most appealing? Why?

Part B

3. Many scholars studying crime have historically focused on what makes particular individuals more likely to “offend” as compared to similarly situated individuals. Other, arguably more sociological approaches, have focused on structural inequality, culture, etc. Are the latter approaches wholesale rejections of the former, or have these conceptual lines of inquiry intersected and built upon each other? Explain your view of these matters, while also outlining some of the main approaches taken by criminological scholarship.
4. Much recent scholarship on punishment has focused on control, repression, power, etc. *outside* the formal criminal justice system. Explain some of the major contours of this scholarship and then make an argument about how these lines of inquiry do, or do not, represent a sharp departure from earlier scholarship examining prisons, police, and other forms of “formal” criminal justice.

Part C

5. Criminological traditions from both the right and left, including critical theory and administrative criminology, have been critiqued for ignoring non-Western criminological approaches and for operating without understanding colonialism. What can Western criminology learn from these other approaches?

6. Several theories of criminology identify a new mode of governing crime often referred to as the turn to a “new penology.” How has the new penology reshaped our understanding of the field? What are the limits of this approach?