**Midterm Exam Review and Study Guide: Criminology Fall, 2015**

**Exam Date: Nov.3, 2015**

**Exam Format: Short Answers (60 points) and Essays ( 40 points)**

**Required Reading: See Schedule**

**Sample Short Answer Questions:**

1. Describe Sutherland’s theory of Differential Association.

2. What are the key components of routine activities theory? Who developed this theory?

3. What were the key findings from Wilson and Herrnstein’s book, *Crime and Human Nature*?

4. Describe the *Broken Windows* theory of crime causation. Does the research evidence support this theory?

5. What exactly was the war on poverty? How effective were war on poverty initiatives?

6. What is eugenics?

7. Who was Cesare Lombroso?

8. What are the effects of concentrated disadvantage on verbal ability, according to Sampson?

9. What is the Chicago Area Project? Is it a success?

10. What is the zonal hypothesis of crime causation?

**Sample Essay Questions:**

1. What do we know about murder in the United States? Which of the theories of crime causation do you believe offers the best explanation of why we kill?

2. Describe the key features of classical theories of crime causation: Key Figures, Key assumptions, General Deterrence, Specific Deterrence, research testing the theory, and policy implications

3. Describe the socio-political context of conservative criminology in the United States.

4. Describe the key features of biological theories of crime causation, highlighting research on the biology-crime connection: Lombroso, Sheldon, Twin and adoption studies, etc.

5. What is biosocial criminology? Identify major risk factors ( e.g. IQ, ADHD, alcoholism), protective factors, and environmental conditions( toxins), then discuss policy implications.

6. Provide an overview of the following sociological theories of crime causation: strain theories, social disorganization theories, and subcultural theories.

7. Describe the major psychological theories of crime causation, highlighting relevant policy implications.

8. Summarize the available research on strain, subcultural, and social disorganization theories of crime causation.

9. Summarize the key findings from Levitt’s review: *Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not.* In your view, was Levitt correct in his assessment?