Texas State University  
School of Criminal Justice  
Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam for Theory  
November 11, 2013  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Choose Option One or Option Two. 
Save two electronic copies of your answer (one with just your ID number assigned to you, 
the other with your ID number and name). Email both copies to Cybele Hinson 
<ch56@txstate.edu> Print and turn in a hard copy as well with both your ID number and 
name on it.

**Option One:** Pick a conflict theory of crime and/or crime control (e.g., racial conflict theory, 
economic theory, Marxist conflict theory).

A) Present, in your own words, the causal argument of the version of conflict theory that you 
have selected. Where appropriate, include in your discussion the theory’s assumptions and 
hypotheses. You may use path diagrams as part of your answer.

B) Identify and discuss, in some detail, one of the problems that arises when one attempts to test 
conflict theories of crime and/or crime control. Based on your understanding of the theoretical 
and empirical literature, present one possible solution to this problem.

**Option Two:** The governor of the great state of Kentucky is planning to put an entertainment 
complex on the banks of the Ohio River. As currently envisioned, the project will include a 
professional stadium, eating establishments, and some specialty shops. You are being asked to 
design the complex in such a way as to reduce the risks of victimization for its patrons.

A) Pick a theory that you think **cannot** be used to help you design the entertainment complex. 
Explain, referring to specific aspects of the theory when appropriate, why the theory **would not** 
help you accomplish your objective.

B) Pick a theory that you think **can** be used to help you design the entertainment complex. 
Explain, referring to specific aspects of the theory when appropriate, why the theory **would** help 
you accomplish your objective.