

CRJ 84100 ADVANCED POLICY ANALYSIS
COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
AUGUST 2016
PROFESSOR MARTIN

Instructions: You will have 3 ½ hours to answer all of the questions below. Be sure to save your responses often. Number your answers to indicate which question you are answering.

The Department of Justice has issued a report about the treatment of adolescents at Rikers Island Correctional Facility – the main jail complex for New York City. Read the excerpts provided. Given your expertise, New York Mayor, Bill DeBlasio, has asked you to lead an advisory committee to address the concerns raised in the report. They have essentially asked you: “What should we do?”

To prepare your final report to the Mayor, you need to do the following:

1. Write a problem definition to describe what New York City needs to address at Rikers.
2. Write a single research question that investigates a key aspect of this problem definition.
3. Explain what the null and alternative hypotheses associated with this research question are.
4. Explain what the most important dependent variables are and why.
5. Explain what the most important independent variables are and why.
6. Briefly describe a rigorous, specific, quantitative study based on your research question. What are the strengths and weaknesses of your proposed study? Explain concerns with any type of bias or issues of measurement for your key variables.
7. Draw a conceptual framework for your proposed study. If there are any relationships among the variables, indicate the nature of each relationship by placing a + (positive) or – (negative) above each arrow.
8. Provide a generic symbolic representation of your statistical model. If relevant explain any issues with bias or endogeneity.
9. Construct a matrix to assess at least three viable policy alternatives, using at least three criteria based on concerns raised in the DOJ report. Information in the matrix should draw on the actual statistics provided throughout the report.
10. Discuss your recommendations for an implementation plan, political analysis/feasibility, and any relevant ethical considerations of which your client should be aware.