Instructions: There are two questions on this exam. Be sure to answer both questions during the allotted time period. The questions are not related; do not refer to one of them in answering the other. Answers should be typed, double-spaced, 1” margins and 12-point font. Be sure to save your answer often. Your answer should be written as if you were writing a paper. It should be in essay form and should read well.

Question 1

On February 26, 2012 Trayvon Martin walked in the rain from a convenience store to a relative’s house in a gated Florida community with his hood pulled over his head. A local resident, George Zimmerman, was in his driveway about to leave when he spotted Trayvon. George was the captain of the community’s neighborhood watch group. He thought that Trayvon looked suspicious and followed him. Eventually, they had an altercation and George shot and killed Trayvon.

For several reasons, this incident received a lot of media attention. It also calls into question the extent to which neighborhood watch groups are effective at limiting crime and making community members feel safer. Many American communities have neighborhood watch groups, which are organized groups of citizens devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within their neighborhoods. They are not supposed to be vigilante groups, and members are supposed to contact authorities and not intervene when they suspect criminal activity.

Design a multi-methods study where you assess: (1) whether having a neighborhood watch group makes suburban Florida residents feel safer; (2) whether having a neighborhood watch group deters criminal activity in suburban Florida communities; and (3) how neighborhood watch groups understand their role in their communities. In your answer, be sure to address the following issues:

1. Which mixed-methods research design is most appropriate for this study? Why?
2. State the specific quantitative and qualitative research questions/hypotheses for your study.
3. Discuss the quantitative and qualitative methods you are using.
4. Discuss your sampling techniques for both the quantitative and qualitative elements and justify your selection. Discuss what you are measuring and how you are measuring it. There should be a fit between the research question, conceptualization, and measurement.
5. Variables and social mechanisms:
   a. Describe the variables you are using (independent and dependent)
   b. Discuss the extent to which you can assess causality
   c. Explain the contexts, processes and other meanings you will explore
   d. For the quantitative portion of the study discuss the mediators that you will assess
6. Data issues
   a. Discuss potential issues with and the trustworthiness of your data.
b. Discuss the strategies you will use to ensure your data are “accurate” or credible, and the techniques you will use to ensure that they are consistent.

7. Discuss the ethical issues your study raises and how you will address them

8. Discuss the implications of your study for future research.

**Question 2**

There has been considerable debate regarding the merits of quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection in criminal justice research. Your job in this question is to do the following:

1. Compare and contrast the main concerns of quantitative and qualitative researchers regarding the following:
   - Goals
   - Data collection, sampling, and analysis
   - Conceptions of reliability, validity, and trustworthiness
   - Research ethics and positionality.

2. Provide one example of how qualitative and quantitative methods may be “mixed,” discussing the benefits and limitations of this approach.

In your response, be sure to reference readings/theory, define key concepts, and use illustrative examples to explain how and why the concerns of quantitative and qualitative researchers differ.