Suggested Reading List for Ph.D. Methods Comprehensive Exam

The following is a list of readings that I recommend for students preparing to take the Ph.D. methods exam. It has no official status and has not been approved by the College faculty or the Methods Comprehensive Exam Committee.

While it is not realistic to expect that all students will read all of the items, all are items that a criminological researcher should read and which would prove highly useful. If a student did read and understand all of these items, she/he would be prepared to answer any of the questions likely to appear on the exam, to perform dissertation research, and to begin professional-level research in criminology. Students may have already read some of these sources in their methods courses, in which case only review will be necessary. Likewise, they may have found other texts covering the same material, in which case the corresponding items listed below can be ignored.

Research Designs


Data-Gathering Methods


**Statistics (Basic-to-Intermediate) and Data Interpretation**

Read these in the following order:


**Some Optional Readings on Advanced Statistical Methods**

The following books cover some of the more important advanced statistical methods used fairly frequently in criminology. You are not expected to know how to use them on the Methods exam, but you may be asked in what situations the methods would be needed or used. Therefore, you could read their introductory pages just to find this out for purposes of passing the exam, and then read the entire text at your leisure when and if you need to know how to use them. The books are all volumes in the Sage (Beverly Hills) series on quantitative methods, are less than 100 pages, and are as easy to read as books on such topics ever get. Each book’s series number has been listed. I recommend they be read in the following order:


---

*Written by Gary Kleck*