

RESEARCH PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Fall 2013, First Eight-Week Term

Government2306

Professor John Ben Sutter

PAPER TOPIC: The Federal Government Shutdown and the Debt Ceiling Crisis

Only those who reside in caves are likely unaware of the shutdown of the federal government and the looming debt ceiling crisis that comes to a head on October 17th.

Damaging costs and effects of the shutdown continue to increase as the closure extends into its third week. However, economists, leaders of business and finance, and governments around the world warn that far greater calamities would result from the dire effects of the federal government defaulting on its loans if the Congress fails to extend the debt limit this week. Even many Republican leaders express fear that a failure to extend the debt limit could have deleterious effects on the national and world economies while adherents of the ideological “Tea Party” faction of the Republican Party steadfastly state that it would not adversely affect the economy. Their goals of cutting federal programs and eliminating funding for the Affordable Health Act programs are, they believe, more important to the well being of the nation’s future.

Opposition by Republicans, particularly in the Tea Party wing, was a guiding force leading to the federal government shutdown. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, more commonly referred to as the Affordable Care Act (ACA), sometimes called “national health insurance” or “Obamacare,” was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in 2010. The term “Obamacare” was initially a perjorative term introduced by Republican opponents of the law but became a term commonly used by the media and later by both Republicans, Democrats, as well as many Americans. As a result it became part of the vernacular. (An interesting aside: A recent poll showed many Americans in opposition to “Obamacare” but those same Americans were in favor of the “Affordable Care Act.”) All mean the same thing: A national law which protects patients rights to medical care and introduces measure to provide medicinal insurance to most Americans through private sector vendors through federal, state, or a combination of federal-state “exchanges” across the United States.

Opponents of the law turned to the federal courts at one point seeking to have the law declared unconstitutional. However, in 2012, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the law was constitutional in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*.

House Republicans have attempted unsuccessfully introduced legislation to repeal the law over 30 times.

On October 1, 2013, Congress failed to enact regular appropriations or a continuing resolution for the 2014 fiscal year which resulted in a shutdown of the federal government. Republicans demanded that federal funding be denied to the operations Obamacare as a requirement before they would vote for the continuation of the federal budget and operation of the government of the United States. When Democrats in Congress would not acquiesce to the Republican demands, the budget could not be passed and the federal government operations were shut down. (For

further information, see the Wikipedia entry “United States federal government shutdown of 2013, at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_government_shutdown_of_2013.)

Of greater concern even, according to most economists, is the possibility proposed by Republicans that they would vote against a regular measure to extend the debt ceiling of the United States unless the president and Congressional Democrats agreed to defunding “Obamacare” and cutting federal spending on programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, and other social programs.

Negotiations between House Republicans and the White House have been tense and apparently unproductive. Many leaders on both sides on the issue state that a resolution of the conflict would occur before the debt ceiling passage deadline because the consequences of Congress failing to pass the debt ceiling increase would be too catastrophic (also leaders of the Tea Party coalition in Congress continue to maintain such would not be the case, despite the fears of most economists and business leaders). Such reassurances were given by the White House and Congress before the failure to pass a continuing resolution for the budget which, of course, lead to the shutdown of the federal government. (As to the debt ceiling and debt ceiling debate, see Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_debt-ceiling_debate_of_2013).

Your task, in this paper, is to *briefly* explore the issues surrounding the government shutdown and the debt ceiling crisis. You may emphasize what points you wish of the areas of the controversy as you see fit based on the information you read in the source material I have provided you.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This issue is fluid. The shutdown continues as of this writing and the debt ceiling deadline is October 17. Productive negotiations on the passage of the debt ceiling limit may happen, or they may not, and if there are negotiations they might prove successful or they might not. The outcome, if negotiations are held and are acted upon, is important to your paper. If that happens, you **MUST** include material about the decision. I will alert you to it and recommend that you get the material about the decision from *CNN* (www.cnn.com) or the *The Washington Post* (www.washingtonpost.com). But be watching the news for it, nevertheless.

TYPE OF PAPER:

This is an expository paper, not an argumentative or persuasive paper. Do not offer your own opinions directly in the body of your paper. Write exclusively in the third person, not the first person. You may present the arguments by scholars, experts, journalists, politicians and others in a formal, substantiated, documented manner. You are writing objectively, telling both sides of the issue. Examine the issue objectively and report on what you have found. Like a lawyer in court proving a case, you will use evidence presented by experts and witnesses. Lawyers in a case do not testify themselves. They must let their witnesses prove the case. You will be doing much the same thing. Let the sources tell the story.

You may state your own opinions in the first person (e.g., "I believe, based upon my research and analysis, that....") in the **conclusion** of your paper (the last paragraph or two of your paper), but only in the conclusion. Be rational, not emotional, in expression any personal opinions in your conclusion at the end of the paper.

Remember that this is a research paper, an essay, not a list of bulleted points to address. DO NOT insert subheadings in your paper.

You are telling the story of this issue and the surrounding politics and controversy. You are acting as a newspaper reporter would in writing an objective article over viewing in general what happened. Again, do not put headings and subheadings in your paper because you don't have room for it in such a short paper. Let your development and transition tell the reader what area you're addressing.

DOCUMENTATION, CITATION:

You MUST, of course, document each use of a source in your paper. THIS MEANS EACH AND EVERY TIME YOU USE THE WORDS OR UNIQUE INFORMATION FROM A SOURCE, YOU MUST TELL THE READER EXACTLY WHERE YOU GOT IT, GIVING CREDIT/REFERENCE TO THE SOURCE (ARTICLE) FROM WHICH THE INFORMATION CAME. YOU MUST MAKE SUCH A REFERENCE WITHIN THE TEXT OF THE PAPER AFTER YOU QUOTE AN ARTICLE OR PARAPHRASE AN ARTICLE. You must cite the article information and the URL for the article. You document (or “cite”) the source you’re using anytime you use a direct quote from the source (exact words with “ellipses” around them), or when you paraphrase an idea or words from the source.

You are required to use the Turabian style (also known as the Chicago Manual of Style) of documentation with endnotes and an Endnote page or pages at the end of your paper. The Turabian or Chicago Style of documentation is no more or less difficult than the MLA which you may have used in writing your English term papers. It is simply different and is the preferred method generally in Social Studies, particularly government and history. In fact, you can look at your government textbook for examples on how to use the Turabian method of citation. Your textbook authors use the endnote method of the Turabian style to document the sources they use in each chapter. Look in any chapter and when you see a quote or where the author has paraphrased material, there will be a superscript number at the end of the sentence. The numbers progress sequentially through the chapter as he cites his sources. Then at the end of the chapter he shows, in sequential order to match the superscript numbers in the chapter, the sources he used in that chapter. If you look carefully at how your textbook uses this form of documentation, you should have little trouble mastering it yourself. I also have posted a student’s term paper from several years ago who did a good job of using the Turabian method of documentation. I have also posted a commercially prepared paper showing you how to use the Turabian style. You may look at those for help. If you need further assistance, look to the following Web pages for aid:

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocChiNotes.html>

You MUST document (cite, refer to, point out) where you got the information you put in your paper each and every time you use the words from a source or the information from a source. Any original material—words directly “quoted” or words and ideas paraphrased (formed into your own words)—taken from an article and not identified as to the source constitutes plagiarism!

If you do not cite to your sources, if you do not document where you got the material you use in your paper, that is plagiarism, and you will receive a grade of zero for your paper.

REQUIRED LENGTH, REQUIRED SOURCES:

At least **THREE full pages of text** NOT including the cover sheet and NOT including the ENDNOTES page(s). This is a minimum page length requirement, not a maximum limit. You may go beyond the three text page minimum requirement if you wish.

You must use at least TEN (10) different articles from the list of articles I have provided you in a separate document under the Research Paper module. You may select any of the articles to use in your paper. You must document/cite each of the 10 (or more) articles you use in the paper; you may use any of the articles you select for your paper more than once for quotes or paraphrased material, documenting / citing each use. You will use more articles in your paper since you must update it later this week, BUT you MUST use at least 10 of the sources I have provided you in your paper.

I assume that you will add at least a couple of articles to update the paper as the October 17 debt ceiling deadline is reached or passed. So, we should assume you should use at least 12 different articles and have at least 12 citations to these articles (assuming you use each article only once in the paper; you may, of course, use an article more than once, but you MUST use at least 12 different articles in your paper).

I will take eight points off for each article under the 12 required sources you must use and cite in your paper from the list of articles I have provided you.

RESEARCH PAPER MECHANICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Be certain to follow these mechanical requirements closely in preparing your paper. This is often where students lose valuable points on their papers. I adhere to these standards strictly and deduct points from your paper grade if you fail to follow these instructions!

① **THREE** pages of text, minimum. That's at least **THREE FULL PAGES**--not two, not two-and-a-half...at least three full pages of text (this three page minimum does not include the title page or the ENDNOTES page(s) at the end of the paper. I will **deduct 12 points** from your grade for each 1/2 page under the minimum length requirement, **25 points** for each full page under the length requirement. **YOU MAY WRITE MORE THAN THREE PAGES OF TEXT. IN FACT, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO SO.**

② The paper must be typewritten double-spaced; characters must be no larger than 12 point. I will deduct 5 to 15 points if the type style exceeds the required size. You must use **Times-Roman or New Times-Roman as the typestyle in your paper.** (The typestyle used in this document is 12 point Times-Roman.) Five (5) points off your grade if you do not use Times-Roman or Times New Roman font.

You must submit the paper in Microsoft Word format as an attachment in an **email via Eagle Online email.** I will **NOT accept any paper sent to me that is not in Microsoft Word format** or in a format you know can be read by Microsoft Word. (You may not, for instance, save your paper and submit it as a Microsoft Works document). You will receive a zero (0) grade for the paper because I will not be able to open it and thus not be able to read or grade it. Be sure to send a CC (copy) of your email and attachment to yourself to make sure your paper attached properly to your email to me. (In an emergency, you may attach the paper to an email to my

HCC mail account (johnben.sutter@hccs.edu) rather than to Eagle Online.

③ One (1) inch margins--top, bottom, left and right. I will give you some leeway, up to 1.5 inches on the right side for a ragged right margin. Five (5) points off for each page violating this requirement. Anywhere from 5 to 15 point off if the margins are excessively beyond the 1.5.

④ *You must document (cite) all your references. You **MUST** use the Chicago Manual of Style (also known as the "Turabian")* method of citation and documentation with sequential superscript numerical citations within the paper and an **ENDNOTES** page(s) at the end of the paper. You must show proper documentation for every quote used or source material paraphrased. You will have an ENDNOTES page (or pages) at the end of your paper listing the articles and material you actually used in your paper. You must include the URL for the article from the Internet site of the article as well as the basic information about the article. *(The proper form of the ENDNOTE is used on your list of the articles which I have provided you.)*
IF YOU DO NOT USE THE TURABIAN/CHICAGO MANUAL FORM OF CITATION, I WILL TAKE FROM 30 POINTS OFF THE PAPER GRADE.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you do not cite your sources in the body of your paper, showing where you borrowed the quoted or paraphrased material, you will receive a **ZERO (0)** for your term paper grade!

⑤ Include a title page (which, as you recall, does not count as one of your three text-page minimum). On the title page, include the information as shown below. Five (5) points off for failure to include a title page with appropriate information. Your title page does not count toward your required three full pages of text.

YOUR NAME
YOUR STUDENT ID# **OR** LAST 4 DIGITS OF YOUR SS# TITLE
OF YOUR PAPER
DE GOVERNMENT 2306
FALL 2013, FIRST SIX-WEEK TERM
CRN xxxxx
DATE OF SUBMISSION
SUBMITTED TO PROFESSOR SUTTER, HCC GOVERNMENT

⑥ Keep a copy of your paper on your hard drive or on a CD or floppy disk. If there is a problem with transmission or opening of your paper I may need you to re-send the paper

⑦ You must **submit your paper electronically from your Eagle Online class internal email to me at my Eagle Online by attaching the paper as a FILE ATTACHMENT**. Send a copy (CC) of the Eagle Online email to your own Eagle Online email address with the attachment. I will not accept a term paper that is not saved in Microsoft Word. **DO NOT COPY AND PASTE YOUR PAPER ONTO AN EMAIL AND SEND IT TO ME IN THAT MANNER; I WILL NOT ACCEPT IT IN THIS MANNER! AND THE PAPER MUST BE SUBMITTED AS AN ATTACHMENT SAVED AS A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT or a format that you know can be read by Microsoft Word.** In order to make sure you attached the file with your paper onto your email properly, be sure to send a copy of the email to yourself as a

CC (copy) and then check the email you receive to make sure the paper attached and can be downloaded.

⑧ You *must use a minimum of 12 different articles in the paper, at least 10 from the list of sources I have provided you.* Therefore, you will have at the *very least* 12 entries on your ENDNOTES page(s). Remember, you must appropriately document/cite each of the sources used in your paper. You may use and cite any of the sources more than once in your paper, of course, and you would, thus, have more than 12 endnotes.

EXTENDED SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Your extended due date is **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 by NOON (12 p.m.)**. You must submit your paper to me as a **Microsoft Word** attachment to me or in a format that can be read by Microsoft Word via Eagle Online email no later than **12 P.M. (NOON) on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**. FOR YOUR PAPER TO BE CONSIDERED SUCCESSFULLY SUBMITTED, IT MUST BE IN MY **EAGLE ONLINE MAILBOX IN A MICROSOFT WORD ATTACHMENT** (or readable by MS Word) BY 12 P.M. (NOON) ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20.

I MUST SUBMIT GRADES TO HCC BY NOON (12 P.M.) ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, FOR YOUR CLASS AND ANOTHER CLASS. SO, I MUST HAVE YOUR PAPER BY NOON SUNDAY IF I AM TO READ AND GRADE ALL THE PAPERS AND GET YOUR GRADE IN. THE NOON, SUNDAY DEADLINE IS ABSOLUTE. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY PAPER AFTER THAT DEADLINE.

I strongly recommend that you send yourself a copy of your email with the paper attached to it to yourself. In other words, make a CC to yourself of your mail with the attachment that you are sending to me. That way you can look in your "Sent" mailbox to verify that the mail was sent and that the paper attached to the mail message.

As stated in the syllabus, I do not post term paper grades on Eagle Online. (Student access to Eagle Online is scheduled to shut down for the class after midnight on Sunday, October 21.) As per the syllabus, if you wish your grade on the research paper, you should email me from your personal email account requesting the grade on your term paper. Send your request via email to my HCCMail address at (johnben.sutter@hccs.edu) after the class closes and I will report your term paper grade to you in a response to that email.

SUBMIT YOUR PAPER TO HCC "ASKONLINE":

Before you turn in your paper to me, I recommend you to submit your paper to HCC's online tutoring program AskOnline at <http://hccs.askonline.net> so that you can receive valuable help in doing well on this assignment. Many students have failed this assignment because they did not follow the instructions properly (using the Turabian superscript endnote documentation style, using the proper sources, plagiarizing (intentionally or unintentionally). The good people at the HCC online tutoring program will examine your paper, check it against my instructions, and inform you if you have erred in formatting, documenting, citing, or committing plagiarism.

They will also assist you in the editing of your paper. This is a FREE and VALUABLE resource that you should make use of. Be sure you give them, however, at least 24 hours to review your paper.

(If you send your paper to **AskOnline** be sure to send them a copy of my research paper instructions so they can be sure you are using the proper format and meeting my other requirements.)

If you are taking courses on campus this semester and want to use the campus English tutor to review your paper that is fine. Just be sure to give them my instructions to review and then make the corrections they recommend.

NOTE: You are not required to submit your paper to AskOnline or to submit proof to me you have done so. However, I strongly recommend that you, if at all possible, submit your paper to AskOnline, and then make the corrections they recommend before turning the paper in to me. If you do not have time to submit the paper to AskOnline, I recommend that you let someone read your paper to check for obvious errors. A second set of eyes can be very useful.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!

Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is stealing. Plagiarism is taking the words or thoughts from an author or source and not crediting or documenting or citing to where you got the words or ideas. You can use someone's words or ideas if you show you borrowed them. Plagiarism is like going into a bank and taking money out at the point of a gun. You will go to prison for that. But, if you go into a bank, sign loan papers saying you have borrowed the money, you are not stealing, you are borrowing. Same way with a research paper. You can borrow an author's words or ideas, but you must show where you got them each time you use them.

No matter what the reason for plagiarizing, it is cheating. You will likely get caught and you will flunk the paper assignment. That would be a bitter pill to swallow after putting in a lot of work on the paper. I do not want to flunk anyone on her or his paper, but I will be forced, reluctantly, to do so if any significance part of or all the paper is plagiarized.

I read each and every paper. **YOU MUST DO YOUR OWN WORK.** Trust me, I will know if you bought a paper off the Internet and I will give any paper that reflects plagiarism an "F." One of the resources I use to check papers for plagiarism is www.turnitin.com and it is an excellent tool to find cheating. You may work with other people in the class on this paper discussing the issues and doing research, but your writing must be your own.

Do your own work, do not copy, follow the instructions, and you will do fine on the assignment. (BUT if you plagiarize ANYWHERE in the paper, **you will get a zero** grade on the paper.)

Go to These Web Pages for Further Help in Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism:

http://library.austincc.edu/help/XArchive/documen/docplag_guide.pdf

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://ec.hku.hk/plagiarism>

ADDITIONAL HELP IN RESEARCH AND IN WRITING:

If you have not done a term paper in awhile or are unsure of how to approach researching on the Internet, I have provided you some Web sites to assist you.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/types.html>

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/index.html>

<http://www.lkwdpl.org/study/research>

Please report to me any dead, non-working hyperlinks on this Instructions document or on the document with the source articles. I will repair the link or provide you with the source or a replacement. -Prof. Sutter