Final Examination Readings  
WRC 0103  
Spring 2013

- Please write your name on the packet of readings you have downloaded from The Writing Program website.
  - Bring this packet to the final exam.
  - You may underline, highlight, and annotate the readings.
  - You **may not** bring thesis statements, outlines, prewriting, or drafts in any form to the exam.
- As you read, be aware that you will be writing a **persuasive essay** for your final.
- You may bring a Standard English dictionary, in print form, not electronic form, to the final.
- Be sure to bring this Works Cited page to the final.
- No class time will be allotted for discussion of the readings
  - You may, if you wish, discuss the readings outside of class with your classmates.
  - You may not discuss them with your instructor.
- If you haven’t done so already, turn in 2 blank blue books to your instructor.
  - You will write your final essay in these blue books.
  - Your instructor will return them to you on the day of the final.
- Remember to write on only one side of each page.
- Write “Final Draft” on the cover of the blue book(s) you want your instructor to read and evaluate.
- After completing the final essay, turn in to your instructor
  - the reading packet
  - all blue books, even those that are blank.
  - the prompt
- Your final exam will be in the same room as your semester class has been held.
- Be sure to confirm the day and time of your final. You can
  - Check your syllabus
  - Check postings around campus
  - Check ASAP
  - Ask your instructor
  - Check outside The Writing Program office, NPB
  - Check on The Writing Program website: [http://www.utsa.edu/twp/FinalExam.htm](http://www.utsa.edu/twp/FinalExam.htm)
CNN Explains: Sequestration

By Matt Smith; 9:28 AM EST, Tue February 19, 2013

Here we go: A new round of confrontation between the White House and Congress over the federal budget is in the offing, this time in a new attempt to avert the looming "sequestration" process.

**What is sequestration?**

It's a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to government agencies, totaling $1.2 trillion over 10 years. The cuts would be split 50-50 between defense and domestic discretionary spending.

It's all part of attempts to get a handle on the growth of the U.S. national debt, which exploded upward when the 2007 recession hit and now stands at more than $16 trillion. The sequester has been coming for more than a year, with Congress pushing it back to March 1 as part of the fiscal cliff deal at the end of the last session.

By the numbers: Recent defense spending

**Why does this seem familiar?**

It started with the 2011 standoff over the U.S. debt ceiling, when Republicans in Congress demanded spending cuts in exchange for giving the Obama administration the needed legal headroom to pay the federal government's obligations to its bondholders. In the end, Congress and the administration agreed to more than $2 trillion in cuts. About $1 trillion of that was laid out in the debt-ceiling bill and the rest imposed through sequestration -- a kind of fiscal doomsday device that Congress would have to disarm by coming up with an equal amount of spending reductions elsewhere.

**What were they thinking?**

The plan was that a special congressional panel, dubbed the "super committee," would find a less painful way to cut spending. It failed in November 2011. That left federal agencies facing what outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta called "legislative madness" in the form of harsh cuts that no one wanted.

"For those of you who have ever seen 'Blazing Saddles,' it is the scene of the sheriff putting the gun to his head in order to establish law and order," Panetta said in a speech at Washington's Georgetown University. "That is sequestration."

But for many conservatives, sequestration is a feature, not a bug. It's "the first chance we have for real savings and deficit reduction," the tea party-aligned lobbying group FreedomWorks tells supporters on its website.

"President Obama already agreed to the sequester savings when he signed the debt ceiling bargain into law," FreedomWorks says. "He needs to follow through."

Military pay in play in game of political poker

**Where will the cuts fall?**

More than $500 billion will be cut from the Defense Department and other national security agencies, with the rest cut on the domestic side -- national parks, federal courts, the FBI, food inspections and housing aid. While the Pentagon has laid out plans ranging from furloughs of hundreds of thousands of civilian workers to combat readiness training and weapons maintenance, the White House budget office hasn't specified which domestic agencies would take the biggest hits.
Panetta says that the $46 billion in spending cuts for 2013 would cut sharply into military readiness -- and the longer the cuts are pushed back, the deeper they'll have to be to achieve the required savings.

Opinion: Republicans, be smart about defense cuts

So now what?
Congress put off the sequester until March 1 as part of the last-minute fiscal cliff deal on New Year's Day. Without that agreement, economists warned that the one-two punch of sequestration and the expiration of the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts could have thrown a still-struggling U.S. economy into reverse.

Even with the fiscal cliff deal, the austerity moves already were slowing the economy, Obama suggested over the weekend. The Commerce Department said a large cut in federal spending, primarily on defense, contributed to the 0.1% decrease in gross domestic product seen in the last quarter of 2012.

"Washington cannot continually operate under a cloud of crisis. That freezes up consumers," Obama said during a pre-Super Bowl interview with CBS. "It gets businesses worried. We can't afford these self-inflicted wounds."

How our tribes cause gridlock in Congress

Tuesday, Obama urged Congress to pass a short-term deal that puts off the cuts, allowing some breathing room for a long-term deficit reduction plan. But Obama said any deal should include more revenue from ending some tax breaks -- a stance that inflamed Republicans who already had to swallow a tax increase for top earners in the fiscal cliff deal.

"I don't like the sequester. I think it's taking a meat ax to our government, a meat ax to many programs that will weaken our national defense," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Wednesday. But, he added, "Americans do not support sacrificing real spending cuts for more tax hikes."

The Sequester Hits the Reservation

By The Editorial Board; March 20, 2013

The Congressional Republicans who brought us the mindless budget cuts known as the sequester have shown remarkable indifference to life-sustaining government services, American jobs and other programs. So what do they make of the country's commitments to American Indians, its longstanding obligations to tribal governments under the Constitution and treaties dating back centuries?

Very little, it seems. The sequester will impose cuts of 5 percent across the Indian Health Service, the modestly financed agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides basic health care to two million American Indians and native Alaskans. It is underfinanced for its mission and cannot tolerate more deprivation.

Here lies a little-noticed example of moral abdication. The biggest federal health and safety-net programs — Social Security, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Supplemental...
Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, and veterans’ compensation and health benefits — are all exempt from sequestration. But the Indian Health Service is not.

The agency was supposed to be spared the worst of the automatic cuts; at least that is what its officials believed. Under a 1985 law that served as the model for the current sequester, annual cuts to appropriations for the Indian Health Service could not exceed 2 percent.

Even a cut of that amount is very bad news for the main health care provider for some of the poorest and sickest Americans, living in some of the most remote and medically underserved parts of the country. Like care for veterans, Indian health was supposed to be one area in which duty and compassion trumped cheapness.

The agency’s officials were braced for that level of cuts, but they were mistaken. The Office of Management and Budget interpreted the sequestration law to mean that the 2 percent cap did not apply to most of the Indian Health Service financing.

The agency’s director, Yvette Roubideaux, had to warn tribal leaders last September to plan for a much bigger, $220 million cut, which it expects will lead to 3,000 fewer inpatient admissions and 804,000 fewer outpatient visits each year.

The Indian Health Service operates 320 health centers, 45 hospitals, 115 health stations and 4 school health centers across the country. The vast majority of these are on reservations, where poverty, disease, substance abuse, suicide and other public health challenges are severe.

The government has been increasing its support for the service in the last decade; at a hearing on Tuesday of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, the chairman, Mike Simpson, an Idaho Republican, noted that between 2000 and 2012, financing rose to $4.4 billion from $2.4 billion.

This has allowed some improvement and stability in services. But Dr. Roubideaux told Mr. Simpson that the agency’s catastrophic health emergency fund, which reimburses providers for trauma care and major surgeries, would still run out of money before the end of the year.

The federal government cannot use its budget nihilism to avoid its moral and legal obligations.

How the sequester will hit Texas

February 25, 2013

The White House last night began releasing state-by-state reports detailing how the sequester will unroll (it’s worth noting some Republicans are already challenging some of the state-specific numbers). According to the Texas fact sheet, here’s some of what we can expect to happen this year in the Lone Star State unless Congress intervenes to stop the $85 billion in automatic spending cuts set for March 1:

- **Children**: Nearly 10,000 kids won’t get vaccinations, and about 2,300 would be left without child care. On the education front, nearly 5,000 kids will lose access to Head Start and
schools are slated to lose some $68 million in education funding, putting nearly a thousand teacher and aid jobs at risk.

- **Military**: The White House report says the sequester would furlough 52,000 civilian Defense Department employees in Texas. A recent Pew Charitable Trust study puts the total jobs lost due to military cuts around 90,000. The state's Army and Air Force bases, meanwhile, stand to receive a collective $260 million in cuts.

- **College**: Some 5,000 low-income students in the state would lose federal aid to help fund higher education. About 1,500 Texas students would no longer have access to work-study jobs.

- **Environment**: Texas stands to lose about $8.5 million in funding to ensure clean water and air funding, as well as $2.2 million in grants for fish and wildlife protection.

11 States That Are Going To Get Slammed Hardest By The Sequester

By Brett LoGiurato; Feb. 26, 2013

With less than a week to go until the sequester kicks in, the White House is warning of the effects that the automatic, across-the-board cuts will have on individual states. Here, we've compiled a list of 11 states that will be hit the hardest by the cuts. For some, the pain will come in the form of military job loss and readiness. For others, it will come from educational programs like Head Start. Certain programs like nutritional assistance for seniors and funding for clean air and water projects will also be subject to the axe.

**Texas is going to get totally slammed by budget cuts — especially in education.**
Texas will get hit in a number of areas, coming in among the top three hardest hit states in a range of spending areas, from education to environmental funding. The state stands to lose approximately $67.8 million in education funding, putting about 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk. Head Start services would be slashed for 4,800 children. And about 52,000 Department of Defense employees will be furloughed. The only area in which Texas won’t see too many cuts is in the public health sector.

**New York’s public health funding will be decimated.**
New York will lose approximately $1,070,000 in funds that help respond to public health threats like infectious diseases and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Sandy. The state will see about a $5,730,000 decline in grants to aid in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, resulting in about 6,100 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And New York’s health departments will lose about $2,726,000 in HIV testing funds, which will mean around 68,200 fewer HIV tests.

**In California, 64,000 civilian defense workers will be furloughed.**
California will be subject to 64,000 civilian military furloughs. The state will lose about $87.6 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting around 1,210 teacher and aide jobs at risk. The state will also lose $1.1 million in vaccine funding, which means 16,000 fewer children will be vaccinated. In addition, California will lose $1.6 in justice assistance grants that help beef up local law enforcement.
Virginia's defense workforce will also take a monster hit.
The White House warned that Virginia's military readiness could be compromised because of especially drastic cuts to some of its military programs.
Around 90,000 civilian Department of Defense employees in Virginia will be furloughed if the sequester takes effect, which means a $648.4 million reduction in gross pay.
The Army would have to cut base funding by around $146 million; the Air Force would cut operations by about $8 million; and the Navy would be forced to cancel the maintenance of 11 shifts in Norfolk and defer and delay other ship projects.

Maryland will also lose lots of military money.
Maryland is another state whose military readiness will be disproportionately affected, which is why Gov. Martin O'Malley has been sounding the alarm in recent weeks.
Around 46,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed if the sequester takes effect, amounting to a $353.7 million in gross pay reduction. The Army would have to cut base funding by around $95 million; the Air Force would cut operations by about $10 million; and $9 million in funding for a Navy project would be slashed.

Florida stands to lose $54.5 million in education funding.
Approximately 750 teacher and teacher-aide jobs are at-risk in Florida, which will see a $54.5 million decline in funding for primary and secondary education. Florida's Head Start program would lose funding for 2,700 children.
The state will be subject to 31,000 civilian military furloughs.
Florida will also see cuts in job-search assistance funding, meaning 78,960 fewer people would get help looking for employment. And it would see a $3.8 million decrease in funding to provide meals for seniors.

Pennsylvania's child care system would be wrought by the cuts.
Pennsylvania will take a disproportionate hit on funding for child care services. Around 1,800 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could be prevented from access to child care, which would also affect working parents with jobs.
The state would also see big cuts in funding for public health. The White House estimates Pennsylvania could lose up to $1.2 million in federal funds, which would be more than New York.

Ohio will lose tons of job-assistance funding.
Ohio will lose $1.8 million in funding for job-search assistance programs, which means 57,100 fewer people would receive help in finding employment.
Ohio's public health funding will also take a big hit, with about $1.1 million in expected cuts. The state will also lose about $3.3 million in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse, meaning 4,200 fewer people could be admitted to substance abuse facilities.

Illinois will lose lots of funding for public safety.
Obama's home state will experience big across-the-board cuts. Perhaps most significantly, the state will see a large decline in funding for law enforcement and public safety, with the loss of $587,000 in justice assistance grants.
Illinois' education system will also feel the effects of sequester. The state will lose $33.4 million in funding for primary and secondary education, putting nearly 500 teacher and aide jobs at risk.

Michigan's seniors will be hit hard.
Michigan is among the top 10 states in many areas set to be cut. The sequester looms particularly large for programs that provide meals to seniors. Michigan stands to lose $1.8 million in funding for those programs, more than larger states like New York.
Alaska will lose millions in fish and wildlife protection money. Alaska will be hit with the second-highest cut in grants for fish and wildlife protection, to the tune of $2.1 million. That's more than every other state except Texas.

Economy to suffer as Congress fails to prevent sequester

By David Glickman; Tuesday, March 5, 2013

On March 1, President Obama signed into law $85 billion dollars in federal budget cuts for the current fiscal year. The cuts, known as the sequester, are part of a provision created in the 2011 debt ceiling deal. Due to the inability of Congress to agree on how $16 trillion in cuts over the next 10 years would take shape, the sequester went into automatic effect, with half the cuts to the military and half to domestic programs.

President Obama, in a press conference on March 1, referred to the cuts as “dumb” and “arbitrary.” He blamed Republicans for the sequester, saying, “They’ve allowed these cuts to happen, because they refused to budge on closing a single wasteful loophole to help reduce the deficit.” On “Meet the Press” on Sunday, March 3, Speaker of the House John Boehner countered this argument saying “Over the last 10 months, House Republicans have acted twice to replace the sequester... we’ve known about this for 16 months. And yet even today, there’s no plan from Senate Democrats or the White House to replace the sequester.”

For months, economists have been warning of the negative effects the sequester would bring should it go into effect. While they do not think it will trigger a second recession, there are concerns that it will slow the economy further. As Henry Aaron, senior fellow of economic studies at the Brookings Institution, said, “[The sequester is] pushing policy in exactly the wrong direction. At a time when the economy still needs a stimulus to promote recovery rather than restrictive policies to prevent overheating.”

Jared Bernstein, senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, said, “If the sequester takes affect and stays in effect for the year, I suspect it will lower real GDP growth by .5 percent points and lead to the loss of between 500,000 and 700,000 jobs. No, I don’t think it will lead to a recession, I just think it will lead to slower growth than would otherwise be.”

Texas and San Antonio are expected to be affected by the sequester due to the large military presence. As the San Antonio Express-News reported, at least 5,000 military personnel will lose their jobs, and furlough days for those at Joint Base San Antonio already being cut. KENS 5 reported that Texas’ military could lose as much as $1.7 billion dollars by October, and the 80,000 unemployed Texans could see their benefits drop in the coming months as well. Currently, no new bills have been proposed to manage or change the effects of the sequester. The cuts are expected to affect the national parks, social security, jobs in both the military and public sector and in several other areas, according to the New York Times.
Sequestration Presents Uncertain Outlook for Students, Researchers, and Job-Seekers

By Allie Bidwell; March 1, 2013

As the midnight-Thursday deadline came and went, steep federal spending cuts were set in motion, leaving college students, administrators, and researchers bracing for the effects of impending reductions in financial-aid, research, and job-training programs. Adding to the anxiety is the fact that no one is certain exactly how or when those effects will be seen.

Advocacy groups, colleges, and President Obama have all called on Congress numerous times to come to a compromise and avoid the across-the-board reduction in federal spending, which will take place through a process known as "sequestration." Though a handful of last-minute bills were introduced in the days leading up to the March 1 deadline, legislators failed to approve a plan to avert or postpone the cuts in time, and higher-education institutions across the country are now waiting to see exactly how they will be affected.

President Obama is expected to meet with Congressional leaders on Friday to discuss possible ways to avoid the sequester, but that meeting is not expected to halt the first phase of cuts from taking effect.

The White House has warned that there will be significant reductions in some student-aid programs, in federal funds that support university research, and in college-preparatory programs, but it is difficult to nail down the immediate effects, as program administrators are not sure of how and when the administration will put the cuts into effect.

The Student-Aid Recipient

U. S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan warned that the reductions would have a significant impact on both the financing and delivery of federal financial aid for college students. Although the Pell Grant program is exempt from cuts for the first year of sequestration, programs like the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and Federal Work-Study would be cut by millions of dollars, eliminating more than 100,000 students from participation.

But most students won't see the effects of cuts in those programs until July 1, when the financial-aid program year begins. Most colleges send out their financial-aid award letters to students in March and April, but many institutions will have to do so with an asterisk or a caveat until they are notified of new allocations of federal funds from the Department of Education, according to Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Once colleges are notified of exactly how much federal money they will receive for the 2013-14 school year, institutions may need to send students revised financial-aid letters, or determine if they can help fill the gap for students out of their own budgets.

It is disappointing, Mr. Draeger said, to have such financial battles late in the academic year because it creates "an air of uncertainty" for students and their families.

"We leave them scrambling with too many unknowns at a time when they should be narrowing down how much they'll be paying for college," Mr. Draeger said.

Students should keep in close contact with their campus financial-aid offices, he said, to ask if they should expect any reduction in aid.
The University Researcher
The White House has also warned that sequester cuts will force research organizations like the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation to make fewer research-grant awards, which could result in the loss of thousands of jobs for scientists and students.

Universities' research leaders have estimated that federal research spending will be trimmed by more than $12-billion in 2013, and by nearly $95-billion over the next nine years, which they say the economy cannot afford. ScienceWorksforU.S., an awareness project formed by several national university organizations, projected a minimum $203-billion reduction in the country's gross domestic product over the next nine years, and 200,000 fewer jobs per year from 2013 to 2016.

In anticipation of the 5-percent reduction in federal research spending, many federal agencies have already been playing it cautiously by pre-emptively awarding fewer grants, according to J.R. Haywood, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology's vice president for science policy. Many concerned researchers are looking ahead to March 27, by which time Congress must pass an appropriations bill to allow the government to function during the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year.

Fears about sequestration have been compounded by the fact that federal research agencies still don't know what their budgets are for the coming fiscal year. The situation has created a "double whammy" that makes it difficult for agencies to prepare for the future, Mr. Haywood said.

There is a "fear of the unknown" in terms of what researchers may not be able to do as a result of the cuts, Mr. Haywood said. "It's hard for us to project what we're not going to be able to discover."

Additionally, Mr. Haywood said, many people—including workers, faculty members, and average citizens—may have a hard time realizing that the sequester cuts could be in place for the next 10 years, unless Congress acts to change or repeal the law.

"A lot of people probably think the money will be restored and everything will be normal again," Mr. Haywood said. "But we're facing a new normal now."

For researchers who hold or are applying for grants from the National Science Foundation, the agency has said that sequestration is expected to affect mainly the number of new research grants it awards this year. Those are likely to be reduced by about 1,000, Subra Suresh, who is departing this month as the foundation's director, said in a letter posted on the NSF's Web site on Wednesday. The agency will continue to pay grant increments, as scheduled, to recipients of existing grants, he said.

High-School Students
Financial-aid programs for the neediest high-school students will also be harmed. College-preparatory programs like TRIO and Gear Up, which help prepare low-income and minority students for college, will be cut by $42.8-million and $15.4-million, respectively, this year.

Gina Henderson, a first-generation college student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, participates in the TRIO program. Though she said her ability to pay for college depended heavily on financial aid, Ms. Henderson also relies on TRIO's support services.

Ms. Henderson has a part-time work-study job that limits her free time, and receives additional support in tutoring, mentoring, counseling, and "a home away from home" through the TRIO program. A cut in this and other college-preparatory and support programs, she said, would diminish the future of thousands of students.
"This is just unfair that I worked so hard all these years, and now my dreams could be taken away from me," Ms. Henderson said.

Unemployed Workers
The sequester will cut more than $450-million from federal employment and training programs, which help the unemployed gain necessary skills to re-enter the work force. As a result, nearly two million fewer workers will have access to those services, which are often provided by community colleges, according to a statement from the National Skills Coalition.

But those programs have already lost a significant amount of federal support, according to Rachel Gragg, the coalition's federal-policy director. More than $1-billion has been cut in the last two years. Ms. Gragg said the immediate challenge would be absorbing even more cuts on July 1, when the program year begins.

It's hard to know for sure what consequences additional cuts will have, Ms. Gragg said, because the federal government has not identified how cuts will be distributed and overseen throughout various programs.

But some local organizations the coalition works with have said they may have to lay off staff members, cut back on training services, or close programs or centers altogether.
"Once that capacity is lost, you won't get it back," Ms. Gragg said. If the sequester cuts stay in place for the entire 10 years specified in the legislation, the results would be "catastrophic."

There are already 160,000 people on waiting lists for adult basic-education programs, and Ms. Gragg said the coalition estimates that 10,000 others will lose access to training services under the sequester.

Sequestration, she said, "will have completely dismantled the federal work-force-development system."

---

**Sequestration cuts will impact Fiesta**

By: Emily Baucum; Published: 4/08 3:21 pm; Updated: 4/08 6:56 pm

SAN ANTONIO – We’re ten days away from Fiesta, the biggest party of the year, and national spending cuts are threatening to rain on our parades.

It takes more than a year to plan the events so sequestration is the last-minute, uninvited guest to the party.

The sights, the sounds, the shoes: the Battle of Flowers Parade has been a San Antonio standard for more than 120 years.

"Such a history. Such a tradition," organizer Anne Ballantyne says. "It's really wonderful to be part of a group that really started what Fiesta is."

Every float, every dress, every sparkle you see on the parade route just wouldn’t be possible without volunteer – and in Military City, U.S.A., the volunteers include members of the National Guard.
Ballantyne says the uniformed men and women make sure the parade’s 7,000 participants are in place.

"They help us deliver things down the parade route," she says. "We just couldn't do without them."

But they will have to this year because of the national spending cuts impacting our military.

"We’re down in military bands," Ballantyne says. "I know that the Drum Corps, which everybody just loves and usually participates in so many Fiesta events, was just not able to come this year."

Organizers are now asking reserve units for volunteers to drive and guide the floats.

"We've been so fortunate to have the military helping us for all these years," Ballantyne says.

Call it Texas teamwork combining with that Fiesta spirit to make sure this year’s parade is just as colorful as ever.

Sequestration will have an impact on the Fiesta Flambeau Parade as well. Its organizers say a popular Marine band lost the funding to travel here, but everything else should go off without a hitch.
Works Cited


