

# CULT 1017 UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 101551

**Coordinator** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

**Description** Understanding Society introduces first year students to key sociological concepts, methods and theories used for the examination of individuals, social interactions, institutions and structures. Students explore how individual experiences are connected to wider social patterns. Considering questions of power, students will be introduced to various debates concerning structure and agency, and will examine social inequality. With a focus on contemporary social life, the subject provides opportunity for students to consider current social issues and processes of social change. At the conclusion of their studies in this subject students will have been presented with opportunities to develop skills in critical reading and sociological analysis.

**School** Social Sciences

**Discipline** Society and Culture, Not Elsewhere Classified.

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 1 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** HUMN 1037 – Introduction to Sociology  
CULT 1019 - Understanding Society (WSTC)

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate their knowledge of key concepts and interpretive traditions in sociology.
2. Identify relevant sources, and assess approaches to and claims about social processes and institutions.
3. Analyse social processes and institutions from a broad understanding of contemporary society.
4. Demonstrate writing and referencing skills commensurate with university scholarship.
5. Explain key concepts in sociology.
6. Identify key characteristics of the major theoretical frameworks used in sociology.
7. Identify relevant sources, and assess approaches to and claims about social processes and institutions in contemporary society.
8. Apply a sociological understanding of power, social inequality and social change to case study materials.
9. Demonstrate reading, writing and referencing skills commensurate with university scholarship.

## Subject Content

The Sociological Perspective  
Groups and Social Control  
Social Inequality  
Social Institution  
Social Change  
Individual and social identities  
Social groups and relationships

Social Institutions  
Power, structure and agency

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type             | Length     | Percent | Threshold | Individual/<br>Group Task |
|------------------|------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Log/<br>Workbook | 500 words  | 25      | N         | Individual                |
| Essay            | 1500 words | 35      | N         | Individual                |
| Case Study       | 1000 words | 35      | N         | Individual                |
| Participation    | 30 minutes | 5       | N         | Individual                |

## WSU Online

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type             | Length                                                    | Percent | Threshold | Individual/<br>Group Task |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Log/<br>Workbook | 500 words<br>plus<br>Discussion<br>Board<br>contributions | 30      | N         | Individual                |
| Essay            | 1,500 words                                               | 40      | N         | Individual                |
| Case Study       | 1,000 words                                               | 30      | N         | Individual                |

Prescribed Texts

- McCormack, M., Anderson, E., Jamie, K. and David, M. (2018) Discovering Sociology. London, UK: Palgrave.

Teaching Periods

## Autumn (2024)

### Penrith (Kingswood)

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-AUT\\_KW\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-AUT_KW_1#subjects))

### Liverpool

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-AUT\\_LP\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-AUT_LP_1#subjects))

## Online

**Online**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-AUT\\_ON\\_2#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-AUT_ON_2#subjects))

## **Parramatta - Victoria Rd**

### **On-site**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-AUT\\_PS\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-AUT_PS_1#subjects))

## **Sydney City Campus - Term 1 (2024)**

### **Sydney City**

#### **On-site**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-SC1\\_SC\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-SC1_SC_1#subjects))

## **WSU Online TRI-2 (2024)**

### **Wsu Online**

#### **Online**

**Subject Contact** Rachel Sharples ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel Sharples/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Rachel%20Sharples/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=CULT1017\\_24-OT2\\_OW\\_2#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=CULT1017_24-OT2_OW_2#subjects))