

HUMN 1067 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE AND SOCIETY (WSTC)

Credit Points 10

Coordinator Elisha Barrett (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elisha Barrett/>)

Description Introduction to Culture and Society examines the ways culture, as both representation and practice, shapes individual and collective identities. It will focus on the rituals and routines of everyday life, and their connection to our wider social relationships. The subject will also explore inequality both in Australia and globally, the social structures that generate this inequality and the cultural processes by which we mark status and social distinction.

School Humanities & Comm Arts

Discipline Sociology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Equivalent Subjects HUMN 1017 - Everyday Life
HUMN 1066 - Introduction to Culture and Society
HUMN 1018 - Everyday Life (WSTC)

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled at The College to enrol in this subject.

Students enrolled in Extended College programs must have passed 40 credit points of the preparatory subjects in these programs in order to register in this subject.

Students enrolled in Integrated courses must have passed or be enrolled in the preparatory subjects in these programs in order to register in this subject.

Learning Outcomes

1. Exercise sociological and cultural concepts and frameworks to make sense of human experience in ways that go beyond 'common sense' accounts of the world.
2. Recognise the role of symbolic creativity in everyday life and its connection to social relations and institutions.
3. Develop an ethnographic understanding of cultural practices, both familiar and distant, in order to make sense of their larger significance to social groups.
4. Research the dimensions of social inequality in Australia and globally
5. Identify both the ways social inequalities are marked in cultural terms, and the wider structures and institutions that serve to reproduce those inequalities.
6. Understand how globalisation and global inequalities shape everyday life in contemporary Australia.

Subject Content

Module 1: Culture, Society and Everyday Life

Week 1: The Idea of Society

Week 2: Cultural Representation

Week 3: Cultural Practices of Everyday Life

Module 2: Practising Culture: Self, Community and Symbolic Creativity

Week 4: Presentation of Self - Getting Dressed

Week 5: Communal Rituals - Ethnographies of Gift Giving

Week 6: Food Consumption and Everyday Multiculturalism

Module 3: Economic Inequality, Boundary Marking and Social Distinction

Week 7: Dimensions of Inequality in Australia

Week 8: The Geographies of Inequality: Poverty and Prosperity in Sydney

Week 9: Parsing Poverty: From the Undeserving Poor to the Bogans

Module 4: The 'Australian Way of Life' and its Contradictions

Week 10: Divisions of Labour: Housework, Care Work, Gender and Race.

Week 11: The Backyard & the Bush: Culture & Nature in the Age of Climate Change

Week 12: Conclusion

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/ Group Task	Mandatory
Quiz	30 mins	10	N	Individual	N
Case Study	500 words	20	N	Individual	N
Essay	1500 words	40	N	Individual	N
End-of-session Exam	1000 words	30	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

Term 1 (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Elisha Barrett (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elisha Barrett/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1067_25-T1_BK_1#subjects)

Nirimba Education Precinct

On-site

Subject Contact Elisha Barrett (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elisha Barrett/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1067_25-T1_BL_1#subjects)

Term 3 (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Elisha Barrett (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elisha Barrett/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1067_25-T3_BK_1#subjects)

Hybrid

Subject Contact Elisha Barrett (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Elisha Barrett/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1067_25-T3_BK_3#subjects)