

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



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The College

## CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

700212/900029

2020



UNIT OUTLINE

Last amended:	August 2020
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<b>Unit name</b>	Cultural Perspectives
<b>Unit number</b>	700212/900029
<b>Coordinator</b>	Natalie Quinlivan
<b>Session</b>	2021.1
<b>Handbook summary</b>	This unit is designed to help students understand why people from diverse cultures and historical periods may think differently, behave differently and have vastly different worldviews. This unit is designed to help students understand more about themselves, their family and friends and the reasons why people do things in particular ways and believe the things that they do. It has a strong theoretical base but is also designed to encourage reflection.
<b>Credit point value</b>	10
<b>Unit level</b>	700212 — Diploma level 900029 — University Foundation Studies
<b>Prerequisite/s</b>	No
<b>Corequisite/s</b>	No
<b>Unit incompatible with and not to be counted for credit with</b>	N/A
<b>Attendance requirements</b>	Students are expected to attend at least 80% of classes. Educational research consistently demonstrates that this attendance level is associated with a high likelihood of achieving a passing grade.
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. demonstrate a foundational understanding of the key concept of culture, and its related analytical perspectives of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism</li><li>2. identify and examine specific locations of historical, geographical and social differences, such as modernity, nationality, gender and social class</li><li>3. compare how different historical, geographical and social locations foster different cultural perspectives</li><li>4. demonstrate a proficiency in the basic research and writing skills of tertiary study through the effective presentation of ideas in written, oral and digital form, and</li><li>5. work effectively as part of a group, and reflect critically on both individual and group achievements.</li></ol>

<b>Unit content</b>	<p>In this unit students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• foundation ideas in cultural and social analysis</li><li>• academic definitions of culture, gender, social class, modernity, power, indigeneity, the self and the “western world”</li><li>• introductions to key social and cultural debates around multiculturalism, privilege, religion, globalization, and</li><li>• analysis of students’ own socio-cultural locations</li></ul>
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	<p>There will be six hours of face-to-face classes per week, plus online activities via the unit’s vUWS site.</p>
<b>Essential requirements</b>	<p><b>Essential text:</b></p> <p>Nil.</p> <p><b>Recommended texts:</b></p> <p>Please see the unit Learning Guide for a list of recommended texts.</p>

## ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components

<b>Task</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Learning outcomes assessed</b>	<b>Mandatory task</b>
1. Homework questions (150–200 words)	20%	1	Yes
2. Seminar Presentation (Debate) (10–12 minutes)	30%	2, 3, 4	Yes
3. Group Applies Project (30%) plus individual reflection (0%)	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Yes
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>		

For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

To pass this unit, students must:

- submit all assessment tasks, and
- obtain a minimum combined overall mark of 50%.