

# HUMN 2062 YOUTH CULTURES AND MORAL PANICS

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 100298

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

**Description** Young people have long been the focus of social fears. Public figures regularly express concern about the disorder created by unruly youths, or the effects of change on young people. This is the case in relation to popular music, 'youth gangs', new technologies and other areas. This unit will consider how young people became defined as a problem by politicians, policy, the media and others. Resulting 'moral panics' represent social anxieties around economic, social and technological change, producing calls for 'solutions' which often entail repressive laws or policing. Students will examine a range of case studies from Australia and elsewhere.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Sociology

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

Check your HECS Band contribution amount 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 2 subject

**Restrictions** Successful completion of 40 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

**Assumed Knowledge**

Satisfactory understanding of key issues and concepts of first year core subjects.

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. understand the nature and formation of moral panics
2. describe and explain the key features and concepts of subculture theory
3. investigate the emergence of the category of youth in public discourse
4. examine the role of the media in amplifying public insecurities around youth and in identifying 'folk devils'
5. assess the social and economic roots of disorder among young people
6. consider the connections between social anxieties, governance, policing and media coverage of youth cultures and disorder
7. evaluate the connections between youth, ethnicity, class and gender in representations of youth in contemporary Australia

## Subject Content

- . Social contexts of youth cultures and moral panics - industrialisation, migration, consumer society and urbanisation
- . Social dimensions of youth cultures and moral panics - relations of class, gender and race/ethnicity
- . Moral panic theory, risk and social anxiety

- . Theories of youth culture and subcultures
- . Media reporting and policing of 'problem youth' in contemporary Australia
- . Case studies of youth cultures and moral panics

## 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.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Essay	2,000 words	50%	N	Individual
Continuous in-class tests	90 minutes	50%	N	Individual

Prescribed Texts

- Subject Reader

Teaching Periods