

# HUMN 2025 FAMILIES AND INTIMATE LIFE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102143

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

**Description** This unit will critically examine sociological perspectives on families and intimate life, building on the approaches and theories introduced in the first year of Sociology studies. The familiarity of families and intimate relationships will be thrown into question. Students will be asked to examine their beliefs, unpack myths of the 'naturalness' of family, and question the 'personal'. Families and intimate relationships will be viewed as part of the wider social structure, their constitutions shaped by culture, economies, social policy, technology and globalisation. The unit will demonstrate the historical and cultural specificity of the nuclear family and its role in the creation and reproduction of social inequality and social difference.

**School** Social Sciences

**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

**Equivalent Subjects** HUMN 2052 - Sociology of the Family HUMN 2016 - Comparative Studies of Families and Kinship

**Restrictions** Successful completion of 40 credit points

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. Recognise and describe the family and intimate relationships as socially constituted.
2. Describe the contemporary diversity of family and intimate relationship forms across cultures.
3. Provide evidence for the historical specificity of family forms and intimate relationships.
4. Analyse the family and intimate relationships in terms of power relations.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of sociological approaches to the family and intimate life.
6. Apply sociological theory to analyse families and intimate life.
7. Recognise and describe the family as a social rather than a biological construct;
8. Recognise and describe intimate relationships as social constructs;
9. Describe the contemporary diversity of family and intimate relationship forms both in our own and other cultures;
10. Provide evidence for the historical specificity of family forms and intimate relationships;
11. Analyse the family and intimate relationships in terms of power relations;
12. Demonstrate an understanding of sociological approaches to the family and intimate life.

## Subject Content

- Diverse families and intimate relationships across time and culture
  - Sociological theories on the family and intimate life
  - Love and romance
  - Marriage and cohabitation
  - Gendered division of domestic labour
  - Childhood and parenting
  - Extended family relationships
  - Gendered violence in families and intimate relationships
  - Relationship breakdown, divorce and re-partnering
  - Friendship and social networks beyond the family
- Introduction to concepts: family, households and intimate relationships  
Theoretical perspectives on the family: functionalist, feminist, queer, individualisation, demographic, economic  
Diverse families and intimate relationships  
Gender roles  
Marriage  
Violence and intimate relationships  
Households and unpaid labour  
Childhood, parenting and consumption  
Mothers and Fathers  
Love and romance  
Friendship  
Families, intimate relationships and social change

## 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
Reflection	500 words	20	N	Individual
Essay	1500 words	40	N	Individual
Short Answer	1000 words	40	N	Individual

Teaching Periods

## WSU Online TRI-1

### Wsu Online

#### Online

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

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-OT1\\_OW\\_O#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-OT1_OW_O#subjects))

## Sydney City Campus - Term 1

### Sydney City

#### Day

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

## WSU Online TRI-2

### Wsu Online

#### Online

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

## Sydney City Campus - Term 2

### Sydney City

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Andrey Zheluk ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey Zheluk/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey_Zheluk/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-SC2\\_SC\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-SC2_SC_D#subjects))

## Spring

### Penrith (Kingswood)

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Kate Huppatz ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate Huppatz/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate_Huppatz/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-SPR\\_KW\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-SPR_KW_D#subjects))

### Liverpool

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Kate Huppatz ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate Huppatz/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate_Huppatz/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-SPR\\_LP\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-SPR_LP_D#subjects))

### Parramatta - Victoria Rd

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Kate Huppatz ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate Huppatz/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Kate_Huppatz/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-SPR\\_PS\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-SPR_PS_D#subjects))

## WSU Online TRI-3

### Wsu Online

#### Online

**Subject Contact** Alexia Cameron ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alexia Cameron/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Alexia_Cameron/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HUMN2025\\_22-OT3\\_OW\\_O#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN2025_22-OT3_OW_O#subjects))

## Sydney City Campus - Term 3

### Sydney City

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Andrey Zheluk ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey Zheluk/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Andrey_Zheluk/))