



Mature Adults Learning Association (Inc.) - Perth

POST: Unit 1 / 5 SHANN GROVE, KARDINYA, WA 6163 (for return of enrolment forms)

WEBSITE: <https://www.mala.org.au> ENROLMENTS: enrol.perth@mala.org.au

LOCATION: Perth Campus: **George Burnett Leisure Centre**, Manning Rd (opp. Elderfield Rd)
Karawara/Bentley (between Freeway and Curtin University)

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS: Julie (Enrolments) 0498 560 026 Suzanne (General enquiries) 9444 4902

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

ENROLMENT & PAYMENT (\$45 per course, plus a once-per-semester enrolment fee of \$10)

- **PAYMENT:** Please complete the enrolment form and mail it with Cheque/Money Order OR mail/email with evidence of Direct Credit to: ♦ Westpac Bank ♦ BSB: 036-000 ♦ Account: 98-3937
❖ If paying by Direct Credit - please use your surname OR phone number in the Reference/Payer box ❖
- **PROVIDE YOUR DETAILS:** Please include your details on the enrolment form every time you enrol:
Name | Address | Postcode | Phone Number | Email address (preferred for sending information)
- **CHOICE OF COURSES:** Under the existing Covid-19 restrictions for social distancing, quotas for each course will remain strictly limited. To avoid disappointment, please register early and be sure to provide both a first and second choice, if applicable.
- **ENROL EARLY:** Get your enrolment application in early (preferably by 12th February 2021) to avoid disappointment and allow timely processing.

*Consider yourself enrolled in your first choice unless you hear otherwise and
KEEP A RECORD of the classes you select and their START DATES AND TIMES*

- Confirmation emails will **NOT** be sent UNLESS you are a new member. If you are a new member, we will provide general orientation information and a map showing our location. Your name badge will also be waiting for you at the information desk in the reception area on the first day of classes.

LECTURE ROOM ALLOCATIONS: Check the notice board near the information desk on the first day of classes.

TELL SOMEONE ELSE ABOUT MALA: You are our best advertisement – please pass along the attached spare enrolment form to someone who may also enjoy MALA courses. **Everyone needs a separate Enrolment Form!** Additional forms can also be downloaded from the website: <https://www.mala.org.au>

DATES FOR SEMESTER ONE 2021

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|---------------|--|
| PART A | 26 February to 26 March (inclusive) (5 weeks – Fridays only) |
| <i>BREAK</i> | <i>27 March to 22 April (no classes during this time)</i> |
| PART B | 23 April to 21 May (inclusive) (5 weeks – Fridays only) |

- **LECTURE TIMES:** Session One: 10:15am to 11:15am Session Two: 11:45am to 12:45pm
- **ADDRESS:** George Burnett Leisure Centre, Manning Road (Opp. Elderfield Road lights)
Karawara/Bentley (between Freeway and Curtin University).
- **PARKING:** is abundant and free for those travelling by car.
- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** is available, very regular, and stops right outside the Centre.
Phone Transperth - 13 62 13 - for update on information.
- **WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE EVERY WEEK:**
Kindly write your **Emergency Information** on the back for the paramedics should you be unable to speak.



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PERTH COURSES SCHEDULE - SEMESTER ONE 2021

PART A – 26 February to 26 March

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Start 10:15am | <i>Dr David Robinson</i> Africa in Global History: From Dawn to Twilight | <i>Prof Charles Oxnard</i> Scientific Basis of Some Medical Conditions | <i>Carl Altmann</i> What Paintings Say |
| Start 11:45am | <i>Meera Finnegan</i> It's Not Just What You Know, it's How You Think | <i>Dr Marie Ferland</i> Oceans: Drivers of Natural Hazards and Climate | <i>Dr Ronniel Orlando</i> A New Look at Composers of Old! |

BREAK: 27 March to 22 April (no courses run during this time)

PART B – 23 April to 21 May

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| Start 10:15am | <i>Dr Nigel Radford</i> Development of Life on Earth | <i>Rabbi David Freilich</i> Jewish Ethics and Philosophy | <i>Dr Joe Dortch</i> Fifty Millennia on Country: The Archaeology of Western Australia |
| Start 11:45am | <i>Dr Chris Meredith</i> The Age of Knowledge Denial | <i>Kit Prendergast</i> Australia's Native Bees | <i>A/Prof Kevin Vinsen</i> How Computers Work |

We suggest you mark on this sheet the courses you enrol in as a reminder when classes start, as MALA no longer sends out Confirmations of Enrolment.

PART A – 26 February to 26 March (5-week courses)

AFRICA IN GLOBAL HISTORY: FROM DAWN TO TWILIGHT

***With Dr David Robinson** (*Dr Robinson is an Africa specialist and was a lecturer of global history at Edith Cowan University for 12 years.*)

Over five lectures, this course will provide a broad sweep of African history, highlighting the continent's interconnectedness with the world throughout the journey of human existence. Africa is a diverse and vibrant continent, and its history has a depth and complexity that defy normal media representations. The course will commence with the origins of humankind and ancient societies, and move through connections with Christianity and Islam, Early Modern empires and the Slave Trades, colonialism, independence, the Cold War, and issues of the 21st Century.

26 February to 26 March: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF SOME MEDICAL CONDITIONS

***With Prof Charles Oxnard** (*Teacher and researcher, in medicine and science, across three continents and over seventy years: Does that mean I am past it?!*)

1. Autoimmunity and Autoimmune Diseases: When Your Body Hates Itself
2. The Case of the Remarkable Bouncing Kidney
3. How the Brain Changes: Genes, Growth, Environment, Aging and Evolution
4. More on Sex (if you can stand it)
5. Stories Patients Tell (if you can believe them!)

26 February to 26 March: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

WHAT PAINTINGS SAY

***With Carl Altmann** (*Carl has a Master's Degree in Art Education and Art History and is actively engaged in creating and discussing Art.*)

This series of Art lectures explains how to use the various elements and principles of Art to interpret particular works. This helps to understand the deeper meaning within the work going beyond the superficial meaning. Lines, colours, tone and placement convey messages once the viewer knows what to look for in a painting. Consequently, the artworks viewed will be from a very wide range of time and Art periods.

Many art works have meanings beyond our contemporary comprehension. For example, what is the significance of a dovecote or what is The School of Athens all about? In this coming course of lectures on Art History we will be looking at Art from the days of the Bayeux Tapestry (it is about William the Conqueror), The Third of May (by Goya), Sunday Afternoon on the Island of la Grande Jatte (by Seurat) and many more. The mysteries and the meanings of the symbols used by the old and modern masters are revealed. Art appreciation is fun and more rewarding when we see below the surface. It is there for all to enjoy.

26 February to 26 March: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT YOU KNOW, IT'S HOW YOU THINK

***With Meera Finnegan** (*Meera has a Master's in Philosophy, now semi-retired from academia and enjoying bringing critical thinking to community education.*)

Two fundamental questions on which philosophy rests are, what is real, and how do we know? These questions are more pressing if we live in a world where the scope of false claims seems to be more pervasive than ever before. This course asks: are all claims on truth relative to the person making them or are there philosophical positions from which to establish universal truths? What is the scope of human knowledge; and, how do we know what we know? We'll examine ideas of some of the greats of our philosophical tradition to explore these big questions.

26 February to 26 March: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

OCEANS: DRIVERS OF NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE

****With Dr Marie Ferland*** (*Marie is a retired university lecturer and researcher, and retired editor at the Geological Survey of WA*)

These lectures will provide and explore fundamental marine science concepts to help you better understand and appreciate the global oceans and the complex ways in which they influence natural hazards and climate. I will begin by explaining the formation of ocean basins, their different shapes and why that matters, what drives ocean circulation and climate, and some of the processes that influence us on scales from minutes to decades. We will then explore topics including: El Nino/La Nina and other "oscillations" and their associated natural hazards (fires, droughts, floods and landslides); cyclones; sea level changes; regional changes in rainfall and temperature; and impacts of climate change on marine biodiversity and food sources. Examples will be drawn from near and far to provide insights into what happens below the ocean surface and at the land-ocean boundary.

26 February to 26 March: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

A NEW LOOK AT COMPOSERS OF OLD!

****With Dr Ronniet Orlando*** (*Ronniet is a violinist and researcher. Her PhD explored the therapeutic use of live music.*)

There is so much written about famous and less famous composers through the ages. Let's explore some of the lesser-known aspects of these creative souls, and learn more about what drove them to produce the wonderful music we still enjoy now. This course will be interactive, and with live as well as recorded music to enjoy.

26 February to 26 March: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

PART B – 23 April to 21 May (5-week courses)

DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE ON EARTH

****With Dr Nigel Radford*** (*Nigel has been a working geologist for his entire working life.*)

It is widely believed that life on Earth began roughly 600 million years ago; in geological terms, relatively recently. Increasingly new evidence shows that life of some sort has been present from much earlier times. Does the presence of life on Earth have implications for life on other planets in our Galaxy? As Monty Python once said, "There has to be intelligent life somewhere in the Universe, because there's bugger-all down here on Earth"!!

23 April to 21 May: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

JEWISH ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

****With Rabbi David Freilich*** (*Rabbi Freilich is Emeritus Chief Rabbi of Western Australia and served as Chief Rabbi of Western Australia for 30 years.*)

This course will cover Jewish philosophy explaining the relationship between body and soul, good and evil and us and a higher power. The course will then examine the definition of Jewish ethics and how Jewish ethics have had a profound influence on the world and humanity. There will be a study of business, medical and interpersonal ethics. Contemporary issues affecting the world including end of life, right to life, gender issues, climate change and environment, animal rights, human rights and racism and equality will also be covered in depth.

23 April to 21 May: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

FIFTY MILLENNIA ON COUNTRY: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

***With Dr Joe Dortch** (Joe has practiced archaeology in Western Australia since 1992 and is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia.)

Australia was first settled more than two thousand human generations ago. Over this vast period, ancestors of Western Australia's Aboriginal peoples adapted to changing environments, in tropical savannahs, deserts, woodlands and forests. Through this deep history, there is evidence for long cultural continuities within regions, balancing inter-regional exchange and dynamism. These quintessential features of Aboriginal Australia are encapsulated in the continent's western third. This course tracks recent publications on the Kimberley, Western Desert, Pilbara, and South-West. Each region contains at least one site first occupied 50,000 years ago, and many other important sites. The course will cover archaeological evidence for early occupation of diverse landscapes and the development of complex behaviour such as symbolic communication and ecosystem engineering. Students will gain an appreciation for the diversity, significance, and depth of the archaeological record of Western Australia.

23 April to 21 May: 10:15am to 11:15am \$45

THE AGE OF KNOWLEDGE DENIAL

***With Dr Chris Meredith** (Dr Chris Meredith is a retired Academic (ECU) and former Honorary Research Fellow at the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute.)

The rapid increase in available knowledge has forced today's 'elite' to deny, rather than conceal, emerging 'inconvenient truths'. Populist, self-serving politicians have eagerly embraced this brave new world of knowledge denial; "Wind turbines are the dark satanic mills of the modern era" (Abbott), "COVID-19 is a mild form of flu" (Trump), "I have four boys. The fifth I got weak and a girl came out" (Bolsonaro). Should we worry? To answer this question, our discussion begins by considering the roles played by knowledge denial in politics, gender discrimination, social inequality, digital deception and pandemics. Additional topics are invited from participants. Finally we ask: has knowledge denial contributed to *Homo sapiens* becoming the world's most dangerous plague species?

23 April to 21 May: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

AUSTRALIA'S NATIVE BEES

***With Kit Prendergast** (Kit Prendergast is a native bee ecologist who recently submitted her PhD thesis on native bee conservation in urban areas and the impact of the introduced European honeybee on native bees and pollination networks. She is currently conducting native bee surveys for local councils and DBCA. Kit is a dedicated conservation biologist and passionate about native bee conservation. Kit has featured on Gardening Australia, was a WA Young Achiever of the Year, a Famelab National Finalist, and was awarded a 2020 Curtin University Research and Engagement Award. Kit loves nothing better than going out in the bush to discover native bees. Kit's research can be found at www.researchgate.net/profile/Kit_Prendergast)

This course will introduce participants to our Australian native bees – an important part of our ecosystems, yet largely neglected and under-appreciated. Week 1 will be an introduction to native bees, Week 2 will cover how we can conserve them, Week 3 will be on native bee taxonomy, Week 4 will look at some case studies, and Week 5 Kit will present a summary of her thesis and the implications her findings have for native bee conservation.

23 April to 21 May: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45

HOW COMPUTERS WORK

***A/Prof Kevin Vinsen** (Kevin is a Senior Research Fellow at ICRAR/UWA)

Computers are all-pervasive, but how do they actually work? In this series of talks, we'll look at how computers actually work, some of the history, and what programming really involves.

23 April to 21 May: 11:45am to 12:45pm \$45
