



Mature Adults Learning Association (Inc.) – Perth

COURSES SCHEDULE – SEMESTER TWO 2026

PART A – 21 August – 18 September			
10:15am to 11:15am	Prof. Martyn French <i>Viruses versus the immune system: the longest battle of all</i>	Ms. Ebony Bae <i>K-5 Days with Ebony BAE: Understanding Korea's Culture and Global Influence</i>	Dr. Eunice Sari <i>AI in Practice: Creativity and Daily Application</i>
11:45am to 12:45pm	Dr. Jasmine Day <i>Historic Dolls – A Journey Through Time</i>	Dr. James Paratore <i>The History of Commercial Fishing in WA</i>	Prof. Dennis Haskell <i>English Literature and the Big Questions</i>

BREAK: 19 September to 8 October (no courses run during this time)

PART B – 9 October – 6 November			
10:15am to 11:15am	Dr. Jan Altman <i>Shakespeare's Unruly Women</i>	Dr. Emily King <i>Brain Health Across the Lifespan: Understanding Ageing, Plasticity, and the Changing Brain</i>	Dr. Alan Hancock <i>The History of Western Theatre</i>
11:45am to 12:45pm	Mr. Carl Altmann <i>Post-Impressionism</i>	Ms. Dorota Mieczkowska <i>Space Situational Awareness (SSA)</i>	Mr. Josh Tedjasaputra <i>AI in Everyday Life: Navigating the Opportunities, Risks, and Realities</i>

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 – 21 August – 18 September (5-week courses)

VIRUSES VERSUS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM: THE LONGEST BATTLE OF ALL

10:15am to 11:15am.

***With Prof. Martyn French** – a retired Clinical Immunologist who worked at RPH and UWA for over 30 years, where he played a leading role in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at a state, national and international level.

Diseases caused by virus infections, and how they can be prevented by vaccination, are often in the news. However, this topic is also subject to a large amount of misinformation and disinformation, particularly on social media platforms. This series of lectures will help people to understand more about virus infections and how they are controlled by immune responses. Particular attention will be paid to those viruses that cause disease because they have evolved mechanisms to evade immune responses against them, using influenza viruses, coronaviruses (the cause of COVID), measles virus, Epstein-Barr virus (the cause of several cancers and autoimmune diseases) and human immunodeficiency virus (the cause of AIDS) as examples.

Week 1: Introduction to viruses and anti-viral immune responses

Week 2: Viruses that cause Influenza and COVID

Week 3: Measles virus and Epstein-Barr virus



Week 4: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Week 5: Vaccination to prevent and/or treat virus infections.

K-5 DAYS WITH EBONY BAE: UNDERSTANDING KOREA'S CULTURE AND GLOBAL INFLUENCE

10:15am to 11:15am

***With Ms. Ebony Bae** – has led Korean language and cultural programs in Singapore and Perth for over two decades.

How did a nation once devastated by war become a global cultural powerhouse? This five-part lecture series explores Korea's transformation from the "Miracle on the Han River" to the worldwide phenomenon of the Korean Wave. We examine how language shapes identity, why K-drama and K-pop resonate globally, and how Korea's innovation influences technology, beauty, and travel with simple greetings in Korean. Along the way, we uncover the cultural values that continue to define Korean society. Insightful, story-driven, and engaging, this series offers a deeper understanding of modern Korea beyond the headlines—no prior knowledge required.

Week 1: Korean's story – "Miracle on the Han River"

Week 2: Language & Identity (how language reflects culture) & learning Korean greetings

Week 3: The Korean Wave –K-drama, K-pop, Netflix with a game

Week 4: Visit Korea!

Week 5: Korean Food

AI IN PRACTICE: CREATIVITY AND DAILY APPLICATION

10:15am to 11:15am

***With Dr. Eunice Sari** – CEO of UX Indonesia with 20+ years in UX and digital transformation. She's the first Asian female Google Developer Expert in Product Design and Strategy, a UX community pioneer, mentor, and lecturer.

Discover how AI is transforming creativity, from visual art and photography to music and storytelling. This engaging course takes learners on a guided tour of creative AI, exploring what these remarkable tools can do and how they work. Through live demonstrations and lively discussion, participants will see how AI restores old photographs, generates original artwork and poetry, composes music, and helps capture personal memories. Each session encourages questions, conversation, and reflection on what AI means for human expression. No technical skills are required. In a relaxed and supportive environment, this course builds understanding, sparks curiosity, and helps learners appreciate how AI can enrich creative life.

Week 1: AI and Your Health: From the Doctor's Office to Memory Lane

Week 2: When AI Takes the Wheel: Agents, Automation and Decision-Making

Week 3: The Digital Canvas: AI Art, Poetry, Music and Creative Expression

Week 4: AI Safety, Law and Your Rights in a Changing World

Week 5: AI for a Better Future: Innovation, Sustainability and Social Impact

HISTORIC DOLLS – A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

11:45am to 12:45pm

***With Dr. Jasmine Day** – collects historic and contemporary dolls. She designs and crafts cloth dolls.

What is a doll? How do we define their structure, use and appearance? Discover some of the world's most popular types of dolls, from Japanese Ichimatsu and Monchhichi to German bisque and china dolls and the Boudoir dolls of the Roaring Twenties. Even ancient Egyptian tomb servant figures were repurposed as magical dolls in the Victorian era. See fascinating images of these diverse kinds of dolls, learn their histories and even handle authentic historic examples.

Week 1: Dolls of the Dead: Ushabtis as Victorian and Edwardian magical talismans

Week 2: Japanese Ichimatsu Dolls

Week 3: German Bisque and China Dolls and Frozen Charlottes

Week 4: Boudoir Dolls of the Roaring Twenties

Week 5: Monchhichi and Frien



THE HISTORY OF COMMERCIAL FISHING IN WA

11:45am to 12:45pm

***Dr. James Paratore** – 5th Generation Commercial Fisherman and Practicing General Practitioner with a keen interest in documenting the History of the WA Commercial Fishing Industry.

The story of the WA Commercial Fishing Industry remains, until now, one of our State's greatest stories never fully told. James Paratore is President of the WA Fishers Lost At Sea Memorial Association, dedicated to preserving the history of Western Australia's commercial fishing industry and honouring the thousands of lives lost at sea. The Association is working to establish a Sea Organ Memorial celebrating this vital industry and memorializing those it has claimed. In this five-part series, James traces the industry's chronological journey from Indigenous maritime culture through to today, illuminating the extraordinary contribution fishing has made to Western Australia's development—and the ultimate price paid in lives lost. He challenges stereotypes while exploring our deep connection to the sea that shapes our shores. Drawing from thousands of hours of research as part of the flatsea.org database and extensive family archives, these lectures reveal untold stories of migrant resilience, maritime tragedy, and the communities built around our fishing ports.

Week 1: Foundations – Indigenous Maritime Culture to Colonial Beginnings (1800s to 1900s); The Emergence of the Whaling and Pearling Industries

Week 2: Industry Expansion and the Human Toll (1900s to 1940s); The Migrant Experience and Contribution to our State

Week 3: The Post War Boom (1940s to 1960s); Overseas Markets Emerge

Week 4: Modern Tragedies and Maritime Safety Evolution (1960s to 2000s); Adapting Technologies and Shifting Dynamics

Week 5: Legacy, Memory and the Future; A Sea Organ Memorial for Fishers Lost At Sea

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND THE BIG QUESTIONS

11:45am to 12:45pm

***With Prof. Dennis Haskell, AM** – author of 25 books, including 10 collections of his own poetry. He is a Member of the Order of Australia for “services to literature, particularly poetry, to education and to intercultural understanding”. His website is dennishaskell.com.au.

Literature has long been a means of addressing the major issues in human experience, drawing on sensory perception and emotion as well as reasoning. This is not surprising: most of our thinking is done in language, and literature is the most subtle and intricate use of language in our repertoire. A scientist would point out that the other great source of reasoning is mathematics, and science is undoubtedly crucial to our lives. However, mathematics gives us abstract reality, not life as we experience it: it tells us about H₂O but we drink water. In these talks I will explore some key works of literature which explore a selection of these major issues, drawn largely from British and Australian literature; where copyright allows copies of the texts will be provided.

Week 1: What it is to be Human

Week 2: The Nature and Value of Power

Week 3: Time

Week 4: Death

Week 5: Love

PART B: 9 October – 6 November (5-week courses)

SHAKESPEARE'S UNRULY WOMEN

10:15am to 11:15am

***With Dr. Jan Altmann** – has a Ph.D. in Literature and spent many years teaching English and Cultural Studies. She has a particular interest in Women's History.

Why did Kate the shrew have to be tamed? Was she tamed? Are Juliet and Ophelia literature's greatest lovers, or just rebellious teenagers who refuse to follow their fathers' advice. Are Hamlet's mother and Lady Macbeth ambitious and murderous or just supporting their husbands? In Tudor England women were supposed to obey their fathers, marry well, and produce male heirs. They were not supposed to



speak out or have their own opinions. It was acceptable for a man to beat his wife, so long as the stick was no thicker than his thumb. A woman who killed an abusive husband could be charged with treason and hanged. Despite all of this, Shakespeare's women were strong minded. They defied their fathers and their husbands. What happens when they break the rules.

Week 1: The Taming of the Shrew and A Midsummer Night's Dream

Week 2: Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet

Week 3: Othello and Macbeth

Week 4: Twelfth Night and As You Like It

Week 5: King Lear and The Tempest

UNDERSTANDING AGEING, PLASTICITY, AND THE CHANGING BRAIN **10:15am to 11:15am**

***With Dr. Emily King** – neuroscientist and educator specialising in brain health, healthy ageing, and neuroplasticity

Course Full!!

This lecture series explores how the brain changes across the lifespan, from early development through to healthy ageing. Topics will include brain function and neuroplasticity, healthy cognitive ageing, memory, learning, and the impact of lifestyle factors such as sleep, exercise, stress, and social connection on brain health. The series will also explore common neurological conditions associated with ageing, including dementia, Parkinson's disease, and stroke, with discussion of current research and approaches to treatment and prevention. This course aims to make neuroscience accessible, relevant, and hopeful, with a focus on lifelong brain health, resilience, and the brain's capacity for change.

Week 1: Meet Your Brain: How the brain works and changes throughout life

Week 2: Neuroplasticity: The Brain's Ability to Adapt

Week 3: Neuroplasticity: The Brain's Ability to Adapt

Week 4: When Things Go Wrong: Dementia and Neurodegenerative Disease

Week 5: Recovery, Resilience, and the Future of Brain Science: The brain's capacity for recovery and adaptation

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN THEATRE **10:15am to 11:15am**

***With Dr. Alan Hancock** – educator, theatre director and consultant in communication skills.

This lecture series examines the history of Western theatre from its origins to the present day. Alan aims to both inform and entertain – his talks are well-known for their energy and his 'playfully serious' approach. He'll show how much in modern theatre (and screen drama) evolved from its roots in Ancient Greece, via the Renaissance. Along with terms like 'cathartic', 'chorus' and 'orchestra', we can trace back the concepts of comedy, tragedy, the hero, revenge drama, three act structure and much more to the work of writers like Aristotle, Sophocles and Shakespeare.

Week 1: Ancient Greece: Dionysus, Tragedy, Comedy and Satyr Plays

Week 2: From Rome to Medieval Theatre and Commedia dell'Arte

Week 3: Shakespeare and the English Renaissance: the key Elizabethan playwrights, and how Shakespeare became the world's bard

Week 4: Restoration to Melodrama: women on stage, and women playwrights

Week 5: Modern Theatre: the rise of Realism, modernism, and the contemporary globalized mega-musical

POST-IMPRESSIONISM **11:45am to 12:45pm**

***With Mr. Carl Altmann** – has several degrees and is known widely as an Art Lecturer, judge and a practicing artist.

This period of Art was berated at the time and is now highly regarded. It continued the strong influence



of previous decades, new discoveries in science and the introduction of photography. Post-Impressionism, in its turn influenced many younger artists and continues to do so.

There are two distinct groups of artists who are now called Post-Impressionists. One group is the Analytical artists namely Cezanne and Seurat and the others are known as the Expressives, Gauguin and van Gogh. Cezanne and Seurat concentrated on structure while the others looked at colour.

There were political upheavals during this period but none of that is mirrored in any of the artworks. The emphasis was social activities. People seemed happy.

Week 1: Precursors to Post-Impressionism

Week 2: Three Wise Men

Week 3: Analytical artists of Post-Impressionism

Week 4: Expressive artists of Post-Impressionism

Week 5: The Influence of Post-Impressionism

SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS (SSA)

11:45am to 12:45pm

***With Ms. Dorota Mieczkowska** – PhD researcher in optical satellite characterisation at UWA; former Polish Space Agency space safety specialist.

This course introduces participants to Space Situational Awareness – what the term means, where it originates, and why it matters. From the dawn of the space age to today's crowded orbital environment, participants will explore how modern societies have grown dependent on space technologies and the risks these face from both the space environment and human activity. The course covers physics underpinning orbital mechanics and space phenomena, alongside real-world events that have shaped the field. It also examines the policies governing responsible use of space and the implications for both infrastructure and public safety.

Week 1: Introduction to Space – history, orbit types, space environment and services

Week 2: Space Surveillance and Tracking – sensor types, observation methods, surveillance networks and cataloguing

Week 3: SSA Phenomena – fragmentations, conjunctions, re-entries

Week 4: Space Debris – origins, statistics, mitigation measures and removal technologies

Week 5: Future of SSA – megaconstellations, Space Traffic Management, international policy and implications

AI IN EVERYDAY LIFE: NAVIGATING THE OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS, AND REALITIES

11:45am to 12:45pm

***With Mr. Josh Tedjasaputra** – AI Expert specialising in Humanity-Centred AI, translating complex technology into simple, useful tools for everyday life.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly woven into our everyday lives, shaping how we work, communicate, and connect with our communities. This course offers a clear, plain-English exploration of what AI really is, how it works, and what it can realistically do today. Through guided discussions, live demonstrations, and real-world examples, participants will explore both the opportunities and risks of AI, including scams, deepfakes, privacy concerns, and ethical questions. Each session encourages thoughtful conversation, helping learners ask better questions, think critically, and feel more informed. Designed as a relaxed and supportive learning experience, this course builds confidence, awareness, and a balanced perspective for engaging with AI responsibly and on your own terms.

Week 1: AI Revolution or Hype? Understanding AI's Impact on Everyday Life

Week 2: AI is Not Magic: How AI Works and Why It Sometimes Gets Things Wrong

Week 3: Asking Better Questions: Prompting AI for Useful and Reliable Results

Week 4: Scams, Deepfakes, Misinformation and Ethical Challenges

Week 5: Your Digital Assistant: AI for Emails, Planning, Travel and Daily Tasks

Please refer to next page for payment details and important information.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

WEBSITE: www.mala.au

ENROLMENTS: enrol.perth@mala.au

LOCATION: [George Burnett Leisure Centre](#), Manning Rd, (opp. Elderfield Rd) Karawara (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.

COMPANION CARDS: Perth MALA will support members with the [Companion Card](#). Please contact us if you need to enrol a companion (at no cost).



VOLUNTEER CONTACTS: **Barry** (Enrolments) 0403 163 719 **Neil** (General enquiries) 0439 921 294

ENROLMENT & PAYMENT

- Use our **ONLINE ENROLMENTS** – no printing or postage with direct credit payments.
- **Alternatively**, you can print or email (enrol.perth@mala.au) the attached enrolment form – is also available from our website.

- **PAYMENT:**

Direct Credit to: ♦ **Mature Adults Learning Association Inc** ♦ BSB: **036-000** ♦ Account: **98-3937**.

❖ **If paying by Direct Credit – please put your surname and initial in the Reference/Payer box** ❖

Please email us to let us know payment is on its way if you don't use the online option.

Cheque: Please complete the enrolment form and mail it with your cheque to:

MALA, 19 Webster Street, NEDLANDS WA 6009

- **CHOICE OF COURSES:** Please clearly indicate your first and second choice for your enrolment in each session. Some courses may fill early or be cancelled, and we may not be able to provide your first choice each time.
- **ENROL EARLY:** Get your enrolment application in early 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 for enrolments by Post 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 information. **Everyone needs a separate Enrolment Form!**

Additional forms can also be downloaded from the website: www.mala.au

WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE EVERY WEEK:

Kindly write your **Emergency Information** on the back for the paramedics should you be unable to speak.

The views expressed by lecturers may not reflect the views of MALA or any of its members or officers.