



Introduction to Earth Laws

Professional Development Course

5 to 26 August 2025

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction to Earth Laws

A personal and professional development course exploring Earth centred law and governance.

AELA is offering a 4-week course for people seeking to build a deeper understanding of Earth-centred law and governance, so they can develop new thinking and practice in their life and work.

Join us!

- ❖ Build your knowledge about ancient and emerging approaches to Earth-centred law and governance;
- ❖ Hone your ability to analyse, critique and challenge problematic anthropocentric (human-centred) and extractivist practices within human law and governance, that are contributing to the destruction of the living world;
- ❖ Develop your ability to think, work and create from an Earth-centred perspective;
- ❖ Connect and collaborate with a network of like-minded, multi-disciplinary professionals;
- ❖ Engage at a personal and professional level, with a positive vision for the future.

Who is it for?

We encourage participation from all interested people – from all backgrounds and knowledge disciplines - who are interested in Earth-centred law and governance. This course will be of particular interest to lawyers and law students, but the course is suitable for anyone who would like to learn more about emerging trends and approaches in Earth laws.

Course costs

- \$295 per person, for people who work in the corporate or government sector
- \$180 per person, for people who work in the community and not-for-profit sector

Limited scholarships are available for students and volunteers within not-for-profit organisations who need support to participate in the course. Payment plans are also available – please email us for the details: aela@earthlaws.org.au

What is included?

- ❖ **8 hours of live, online classes** (4 x 2hr classes) with Australian and international practitioners in Earth-centred thinking and governance, designed to encourage focussed and active participation.
- ❖ **Access to recordings** of all online classes and materials, if you prefer to watch/listen to recordings and work at your own pace.
- ❖ **A set of materials and resources** for reading, watching and listening.
- ❖ **Certificate of completion / digital badge.**

Why learn about Earth laws?

This course is inspired by the theory of **Earth jurisprudence**¹, which proposes that the current ecological crisis - which has seen humanity cross 6 of the 9 Planetary Boundaries that guarantee a safe operating space for life on earth² - has been created by anthropocentric world views and governance systems that emerged in Western industrialised societies, and which spread around the world through colonisation and globalisation.

Earth jurisprudence suggests that today's dominant governance systems (including law, economics, ethics and education) have been created by a world view that believes we are separate from the interconnected web of life. This world view has enabled the development of human governance systems that support unsustainable extractivism and large scale environmental degradation. Today, industrialised societies need rapid systems change, in order to restore environmental health, build sustainable societies and support the interconnected community of life.

In this course we examine law and governance from three perspectives – western law, Indigenous law and emerging Earth laws. We examine the theory, practice and emerging trends in this rapidly growing area of law and governance.

Course Content

During our 4 week course you will:

- Learn about the theory and practice of Earth jurisprudence: an overarching framework for analysing current modalities of human governance.
- Be introduced to Earth-centred philosophy and ethics, including Indigenous philosophies such as the Relationist Ethos.
- Be introduced to the ancient principles and emerging concepts of Earth-centred law and governance: including Indigenous Peoples' First Laws, the growing Rights of Nature movement, Ecocide law and 'Ecological Law'.
- Be invited to explore the practical implications of Earth centred law and governance to your own work and/or areas of interest.

¹ See AELA's website - <https://www.earthlaws.org.au/aelc/earth-jurisprudence/>

² See for example – Ian Angus, *The Earth System has passed six of Earth's nine Planetary Boundaries*, 18 September 2023, <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2023-09-18/the-earth-system-has-passed-six-of-nine-planetary-boundaries/>

Mode of delivery

- All classes are delivered online (using Zoom video conferencing).
- Live classes will be held on Tuesdays from 4pm to 6pm AEST (Australian Eastern Standard Time), to allow you to complete the course amid existing professional and personal commitments. Classes are informal and interactive, to enable participants to get to know each other, build connections and learn in different ways.
- Each class includes the course facilitator and up to two expert guest speakers. Short talks will be given live in class, followed by opportunities for questions and discussions.
- Resources – including reading lists and video/audio materials – will be available approximately 4 weeks before the course commences, for people who would like to engage with the course materials and prepare for the class discussions.

Course Facilitator and Guest Speakers

The program is created, facilitated and delivered by Dr Michelle Maloney, Co-Founder and National Convenor of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance. Dr Maloney is recognised globally as a leading practitioner in the field of Earth-centred law and governance. Read more about Michelle's qualifications, work and publications [here, on AELA's website](#).

Our guest speakers include:

- **Dr Mary Graham** – Adjunct Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Queensland and Kombu-merri and Waka Waka First Nations person
- **Mari Margil** – Rights of Nature expert and Legal Attorney, Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights (United States)
- **Margaret Stewart** – Centre for Earth Jurisprudence, Barry University, USA
- **Professor Rob White** – expert in Green Criminology and ecocide, formerly Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania
- And other terrific speakers being confirmed

How to register for the course

Registration is available on the AELA website - www.earthlaws.org.au/education

Content

The Introduction to Earth Laws Course includes 4 live classes - (held 4pm to 6pm Tuesdays) and a range of materials, including set readings, podcasts and recordings.

Date	Topic	Brief description
Tue 5 August	Introduction to Earth laws	Introduction to Earth jurisprudence, Earth laws and ecological law and governance
Tue 12 August	Indigenous First Laws and the Law of Obligation	Learn about the Earth-centred philosophy, culture and governance systems of the First Nations peoples of Australia.
Tue 19 August	Rights of Nature	Take a deep dive into the rapidly growing area of law connected to the 'Rights of Nature' and legal personhood for nature.
Tue 26 August	Ecocide and Green Criminology	Be introduced to the theory and practical implications of recognising ecocide as a crime, internationally and in Australia.

Further Information

For more information please email us anytime: aela@earthlaws.org.au