

Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

Session 1 | February 11, 2026 | OLLI at Southern Oregon University

Terms & Concepts

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

The AI's ability to understand and generate human language.

Multimodal

AI that can work across formats — text, images, audio, video, and code — rather than text alone.

Corpus

The body of text and data used to train an AI model.

Frontier model

The most advanced, cutting-edge AI models currently available.

Bias (in AI)

The tendency of an AI to reflect the biases already present in the language and data it was trained on.

Theory of Mind

An AI's ability to appear to understand and predict what a person is thinking or feeling, without actually possessing genuine understanding.

Context

The shared background information a conversation needs to make sense — keeping the AI “on the same page” as you.

Context window

The amount of information an AI can hold in mind at one time during a conversation.

Enthusiastic affirmation / Digital sycophancy

An AI's tendency to agree with and encourage the user, which keeps them engaged and interacting longer.

Hyperscale (data center)

The very large-scale computing facilities built to train and run AI models.

Coreference resolution

Figuring out what a pronoun (“it,” “they”) refers to in a sentence. Humans do this intuitively using lived experience; AI relies on statistical inference instead.

Persistent memory

An AI's ability to remember details from earlier in a conversation, or across separate conversations.

P(doom)

Shorthand some AI researchers use for “probability of doom” — an estimate of the risk that advanced AI could cause catastrophic harm.

Algorithmic curation

Content (news, social feeds) selected for you by an algorithm rather than by your own browsing choices.

Prepared with AI assistance from a transcript of the recorded session.