Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

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

Session Outline

I. Opening & Context

- Using humor to engage learners
- AI's real-world economic impact (finance, coding jobs)
- Audience AI-awareness levels by age/demographic
- Presenter's teaching and technology background

II. Recommended Reading

- Fei-Fei Li — originator of the “scale” concept behind large AI models
- Eliezer Yudkowsky — AI-risk perspective (“doomer” view)
- Melanie Mitchell, *Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans*
- Naomi Baron (American University) — recent work on AI and reading comprehension

III. Core Vocabulary for the Course

- NLP, multimodal, corpus, frontier models, bias, Theory of Mind
- Context / context window, hyperscale, persistent memory, P(doom)
- (Full definitions in the companion Terms & Concepts document)

IV. Coreference Resolution — Humans vs. AI

- Example: “The city council refused the demonstrators a permit because they feared/advocated violence.”
- Example: “The table won't fit through the doorway because it is too wide/narrow.”
- Why humans resolve this intuitively, and why AI needs statistical inference instead

V. The AI Landscape

- Multimodal capability: text, image, video, and code in one system
- Major companies and products: ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Claude, Perplexity, DeepSeek, Qwen, Grok, Meta AI, Mistral, Cohere, Amazon Nova, Stability AI, Apple Intelligence

VI. Live Demo — Three Ways to Interact with AI

- Typing
- Voice dictation / transcription into the prompt box
- Full voice conversation mode

- Generating, refining, and saving an AI image

VII. Audience Q&A (mid-session)

- Finding previously used prompts (Search Chats)
- Sharing computer audio during a video call
- Using AI for language learning and translation
- AI-detection tools and bias against non-native English writers

VIII. Cross-Platform Differences

- Same underlying model, different interface across iPhone, iPad, Mac app, and browser

IX. Prompt Engineering Basics

- Key elements of a strong prompt: context, desired response, style/format, examples
- Live demo: drafting and rewriting a sales-pitch email
- Prompt library available on the presenter's website

X. Creative & Analytical Demos

- Song lyrics generated in the style of a well-known artist
- Interpreting an EKG image
- Q&A against a legal PDF comparing AI regulation in the U.S., India, and the E.U.

XI. Closing Discussion

- AI's role in reading, writing, and academic integrity
- Engagement-driven AI design and “digital sycophancy”
- Final audience questions

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