

Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

Session 2 | February 18, 2026 | OLLI at Southern Oregon University

Session Outline

I. Opening

- AI-generated cartoons as an icebreaker
- Adoption-speed graph: ChatGPT vs. the internet vs. mobile phones reaching a billion users
- Industry AI infrastructure spending (~\$1 trillion this year)

II. AI Risk Perspective

- Eliezer Yudkowsky and concerns about self-improving AI code
- Brief vocabulary: stochastic parrot

III. Theory of Mind, Revisited

- Developmental roots (child development around age four)
- Why AI companies hire neuroscientists
- Example: how a self-driving car predicts pedestrian behavior

IV. Multimodal AI and the Platform Landscape

- Text, image, audio, and document understanding in one system
- Same AI, different look across phone, tablet, desktop, and browser

V. Personalization & Custom Instructions

- Live demo: setting responses to always use bullet points
- Choosing a tone (e.g. professional) and turning off emojis

VI. Agents & Connected Apps

- What “connecting an app” to an AI means
- Live demo: Instacart grocery pricing
- Live demo: Expedia flight and hotel search (Medford to Helsinki)
- Live demo: searching personal Google Drive files
- Honest examples of connections that didn't work (Gmail, Outlook)

VII. Multilingual Demo

- Voice interaction in German
- Response capability in Vietnamese, for a Vietnamese-speaking attendee

VIII. Deep Research Feature

- Live demo running an automated multi-step research task

IX. Free vs. Paid Tiers

- What's available without a subscription
- What the \$20/month “Plus” tier unlocks (apps, file analysis, image generation)

X. Closing Discussion

- Concerns about advertising inside AI chat tools
- Anthropic's (Claude's) public stance against ads
- Preview of Session 5: a closer look at Claude and Gemini

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