

Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

Session 4 | March 4, 2026 | OLLI at Southern Oregon University

Terms & Concepts

AGI (Artificial General Intelligence)

AI that is as capable as a human being across essentially all tasks — not yet achieved.

Superintelligence

AI that is smarter than the smartest human at everything, including the ability to improve its own code.

Emergent behavior

New, sometimes unexpected abilities that appear in an AI system simply because it has grown large enough — abilities nobody specifically programmed in.

Cognitive load

The amount of mental effort a task demands. AI can reduce (“offload”) this for humans, for better or worse.

Effective altruism

A philosophy holding that people should pursue the highest-earning career possible and then use that wealth to do the most good — influential among some AI-industry leaders.

Hyperscale (data center)

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

Workflow / Storyboard

A step-by-step plan for completing a task or project — something several AI tools can now generate automatically from a simple prompt.

Backpropagation (recap)

The process by which a neural network learns from its mistakes and adjusts itself accordingly.

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