

*Preparation for the April 10, 2024, topical seminar at the Lewes Library at 3 pm
Topic – Artificial Intelligence*

The subject of our seminar this month is artificial intelligence (AI). Large Language AI modules, such as ChatGPT, have exploded in power and popularity over the past few months. Each day brings some new development. The AI revolution is not just a technological or economic event but may very well lead to a profound shift in the human condition, touching upon every aspect of our lives. In this month's seminar, we will explore the impact of the AI revolution.

Review the materials below and write a response of at least 200 words. At the end of these instructions, you'll find some writing prompts, but feel free to address the topic in any way you see fit!

Email your written response to lewesseminar@gmail.com no later than Monday, April 8, and please read these responses prior to our meeting on Wednesday, April 10.

Guidelines

*Note on access to materials: several of the links below are to sources that require registration. However, each of them will allow a limited number of articles to be read without a paid subscription. **If you want to return to these materials after reading the first time, you may wish to print them out.***

Please watch the Youtube interview of Yuval Noah Harari and Mustafa Suleyman by the Economist Editor-in-Chief Zanny Minton-Beddoes. **This will be our principal resource and focus for the seminar.** If you have time for nothing else, do your best to watch this video. You'll find the link here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JkPWHr7sTY&list=PLtnS4v6qMg_v-QkGRbPI1CozjVUK42IZd&index=3&t=19s.

For greater context, you may also find it helpful to read an excerpt from Suleyman's book, *The Coming Wave*. You can find it here: <https://www.wired.com/story/ai-containment-regulation-suleyman/>.

Below you will find additional resources about AI. Browse through them depending upon your interests.

What are Large Language Models?

AI covers a lot of ground, but we will focus upon what is called Generative AI or Large Language AI Models. ChatGPT is perhaps the best known, but there are others such as Google's Bard and Gemini, and Microsoft's Co-Pilot. If you are wondering just what generative AI is, here are two resources:

- McKinsey Report: <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>.
- Jeff Su's Google's AI Course for Beginners on Youtube. You'll find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq0QkCxoTHM>

AI Optimism

1. You'll not find a more full-throated endorsement of AI than Marc Andreessen, Why AI Will Save the World. You'll find it here: <https://a16z.com/ai-will-save-the-world/>
Andreessen was an early pioneer in the development of web browsers which make the internet accessible to the masses.
2. There are now specialized models of AI that are focused on solving various important problems. Here are a few examples from very different fields:
 - a. AI and Climate Change: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/26/tech/ai-climate-solutions/index.html>.
 - b. AI and Health Care: <https://www.globalxetfs.com/ai-applications-in-healthcare-from-drug-discovery-to-patient-care/>
 - c. AI and Battery Development: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/10/12/1081502/ai-battery-research/>
 - d. AI and the Power Grid: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/11/22/1083792/ai-power-grid-improvement/>

AI Pessimism

1. Disinformation: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/jul/19/ai-generated-disinformation-us-elections>
2. An AI Doomsday: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jun/03/ai-danger-doomsday-chatgpt-robots-fears>.
3. Profound Risks to Society: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/29/technology/ai-artificial-intelligence-musk-risks.html>
4. Job Loss: <https://lifehacker.com/tech/the-jobs-most-at-risk-from-ai-according-to-a-uk-study>

Prospects for Regulation

1. The Recent Dustup at OpenAI: https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/11/23/x-musk-openai-altman-big-tech/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=wp_politics
2. The EU and AI: <https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/12/11/1084942/five-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-eus-new-ai->

[act/#:~:text=Some%20AI%20uses%20are%20now,schools%3B%20social%20scoring%3B%20AI%20systems](#)

AI and Morality

1. <https://www.newyorker.com/science/annals-of-artificial-intelligence/how-moral-can-ai-really-be>

Writing Prompts

As you consider what to write as a reaction to these materials, you may wish to consider one or more of the following writing prompts. These questions are meant only to prompt your thinking. Focus upon what you find most interesting!

1. **Overarching Question:** On the whole, do you think AI will be a benefit or a loss to society?
2. **Political and Social Consequences:** What are the potential political and social changes resulting from widespread AI adoption? This includes the impact on democracy, surveillance, and social interactions.
3. **Economic and Employment Impact:** How will AI impact job markets and economic structures? This involves understanding which sectors are most at risk and how we might mitigate potential negative impacts.
4. **Ethical Implications:** What ethical challenges does the AI revolution pose, particularly in terms of privacy, autonomy, and decision-making? Who holds responsibility for the actions and decisions made by AI systems?
5. **Philosophical and Existential Questions:** How does AI challenge our understanding of what it means to be human?
6. **Regulatory and Legal Challenges:** Do you think AI can be sufficiently regulated, and if so, what legal frameworks and regulations are needed to manage the development and deployment of AI technologies? What ethical principles should guide the design and development of AI systems?

Michael D. Redmond
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