

AST 309L Readings for week of Nov 28, 30

You should have already finished reading 1) The few textbook pages on intelligence, and 2) The ‘Notes’ (in module “Part 4”) that cover many additional topics in this area of “alien minds.” The supplementary readings for this week are from the (free, no ads) online magazine aeon, mostly published this year. The writing is non-technical but will require a serious thoughtfulness in order to comprehend the arguments. I expect you to make a large dent in this reading by class on Thursday, and to have finished them by end of week. Your job is “merely” to be able to explain what each article was about. The remaining book chapter is more challenging, but remember your purpose, only to decipher the bare bits of what the author is talking about.

Attempt to understand each article well enough that you can write 3-4 sentences that concisely explain

- a. The major point(s) the author is trying to make.
- b. The implications of the paper for the subject of our class.

This is not homework, but is fair game for exam 4, so keep your notes handy.

Pdfs of all articles are all in the module “Part 4 Readings from aeon.” The files are numbered mainly for reference purposes, but the numbering was also made for similarity of topic for the articles about “minds.” I do suggest reading them in order given, although the order is not a “ranking” of the papers at all.

*The file names are reminders of content, with number of pages given at the end of each file.
Be prepared to offer your view or impressions of some of these articles at Thursday’s lecture.*

- 1.ConsciousExotica15pp.pdf
- 2.LinguisticRelativity.LangThought3pp.pdf
- 3.How natural is numeracy8pp.pdf
- 4.EmbodiedConsc 4pp.pdf
- 5.EmptyBrain.NonComp12pp.pdf
- 6.UnknownMind3pp.pdf
- 7.MindTime10pp.pdf
- 8.OpenMind.LevelsConsc7pp.pdf
- 9.Imagination for alien life 3pp.pdf
- 10.CtenophoreConvIntelligence11pp.pdf