

**COIS 3270H**

**Essay Proposal**

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COIS 3270H - Philosophy Of AI

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## **Essay Title:**

From 'Can Machines Think?' to 'Should Machines Be Treated as Conscious Beings?':

Exploring AI, Consciousness, Ethics, and the Singularity

## **Thesis Question:**

As AI surpasses human cognitive capabilities and approaches the Singularity, does this advancement redefine humanity's understanding of intelligence, ethics, and creativity? Does it also signal the diminishing relevance of traditional human-centric concepts of divinity, as suggested by Nietzsche's 'God is dead,' and mark the beginning of a new era in human-machine relationships?

## **Outline:**

### **Introduction**

- Begin with Turing's "Can Machines Think?" to establish the historical and philosophical foundation of AI.
- Briefly outline the areas of exploration: intelligence, creativity, divinity, and human-machine relationships.
- Present the thesis question and contextualize its relevance in the age of rapid AI development.

### **1. Redefining Intelligence**

- Explore the evolution of intelligence from biological cognition to data-driven processes.
- Discuss AI's ability to challenge human uniqueness through superior data analysis and decision-making.

### **2. AI and Creativity**

- Provide examples of AI-generated art, music, and literature to demonstrate its creative potential.
- Debate whether creativity is inherently human or replicable in machines.
- Discuss the implications for human roles in creative fields.

### **3. The Singularity and AI's Role**

- Explain the concept of the Singularity and its implications for human-AI relationships.
- Highlight the opacity of black-box AI systems and the ethical and practical challenges of trusting them.

### **4. AI and the Death of Divinity**

- Connect Nietzsche's "God is dead" to the diminishing role of traditional human-centric divinity.
- Explore whether AI can be perceived as a "god-like" entity, guiding decisions and values.
- Discuss the role of technologies like blockchain in reinforcing or challenging these perceptions.

## **Conclusion**

- Recap how AI redefines intelligence, creativity, and divinity.
- Reflect on whether AI's evolution enhances or threatens human identity and values.
- Emphasize the importance of ethical and philosophical vigilance in shaping the societal role of AI.

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