

1.2: Intelligence, Consciousness, and Common Sense

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Prof. Jack Reilly

S2026

1. Think:

What is the difference between Intelligence, Consciousness, and Sentience? What about between Autonomous Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and Artificial General Intelligence? How can we become sufficiently precise in our language and thinking?

2. Read:

Mitchell, Melanie. 2023. [“Why AI Is Harder than We Think”](#)

3. Listen:

Complexity podcast, Season 2, Episode 1: [“What is Intelligence?”](#)

4. Browse:

- Lenharo, Mariana. 2023. [“Decades-long bet on consciousness ends — and it’s philosopher 1, neuroscientist 0.”](#) *Nature News*.
- Lenharo, Mariana. 2024. [“What should we do if AI becomes conscious? These scientists say it’s time for a plan.”](#) *Nature News*.
- Marcus, Gary. 2025. [“Sam Altman thinks that AGI is basically a solved problem. I don’t. Here’s why.”](#) Substack.

5. Consult as desired:

- [“Consciousness.”](#) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- [“Artificial Intelligence.”](#) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.