

Homework Assignment 1

600.435 Artificial Intelligence

Spring 2020

Due: February 17

Artificial Intelligence in Literature, TV, or Film

In the first weeks of classes, we framed Artificial Intelligence in the broader context of the public imagination, philosophy of mind, cognitive neuroscience and cognitive psychology.

In this assignment, compare at least 2 works of literature, TV, or film, in terms of how they address an important problem of artificial intelligence, in areas such as:

- the physical and mental capabilities of the artificial intelligence
- the agency of artificial intelligence (as explored in the Philosophy of Mind lecture)
- the motivations of the artificial intelligence, including their origin and the designer's objective, if applicable
- what the involvement of the artificial intelligence reveals about human nature
- ethical issues

In class, we touched upon the following works:

- I, Robot — book or movie
- 2001 — A Space Odyssey — book or movie
- Alien
- Bladerunner
- Star Trek
- Terminator 2
- Ex Machina
- Her
- Transcendence
- Chappie
- The Matrix
- Humans

- Surrogates
- Neuromancer
- Person of Interest

You may choose any of these, or any other work.

There are no strict rules on how your essay is laid out, but you may follow the following structure: (a) the problem raised, (b) short summary of the problem for each of the works, (c) comparison of how elements of the problem are handled in the works, (d) your personal assessment of the problem, and (e) conclusion.

Formal Requirements

Your essay should span 2–4 pages (12pt, 1.5 spaced) and is due on February 17 to be submitted to Gradescope. This assignment accounts for 10% of your final grade.