Description

You should watch the 2001 Spielberg/Kubrick film “A.I. Artificial Intelligence” and critically assess the degree to which the film raises plausible issues in Artificial Intelligence. Use Chapter 26 as a guide as to the main Philosophical issues surrounding AI; the definitions (e.g., weak vs. strong AI) and ethical questions should be used to shape your analysis of that film.

Your analysis can consider a subset of any of the following questions (or other questions entirely, if you think them relevant). You may pick a single one and focus on that in depth, or instead try to cover more, with each in less detail. Bear in mind, that the first hour (or so) of the film has a strong Kubrick influence, and raises a greater number of the interesting questions pertinent to the AI course.

• To what degree does the film distinguish weak-AI versus strong-AI? Are the two conflated or is the distinction meaningful in this piece?

• Do you identify particular elements of classical AI thought-experiments, intelligence tests or arguments in the film?

• The first chapter of the textbook gives a taxonomical description of AI and research in the area. The film does not represent a complete sampling of possible interpretations of intelligence but instead focus on particular elements. Why?

• Justify which elements of the film represent possible elements of AI in the future? (For my own sanity’s sake, please avoid talk about space-time continuum memories, etc.)

• In a documentary on the movie, Steven Spielberg states that a key issue raised by the movie is the extent to which we have a moral responsibility to the intelligent robots that we will someday create. What kind of qualities would a robot need before we would recognize our moral responsibility towards it?

• At the beginning of the movie, Professor Hobby states that “to create an artificial being has been the dream of man since the birth of science.” Why do we have this fascination?
- Gigolo Joe states that sex robots like him "are the guiltless pleasures of the lonely human being." Would it really be guiltless to have sex with a robot that looked just like a real human? What if the robot had the appearance of a ten-year-old human?

- David was the first of a kind in mecha design with an ability to experience love. On the box containing the mass-produced Davids it states “at last a love of your own.” It turns out, though, that David has desires, self-motivated reason, and the ability to chase down his dreams. What, if any, is the connection between love and these other cognitive abilities?

- What is the utility of emotion?

**Random fact**

The film was originally to be titled simply “A.I.”, but after a survey it was revealed that too many people thought it was A1. The title was changed to “A.I. Artificial Intelligence” to prevent people from thinking that it was about steak sauce.

**Submission**

Copies of the film are available via the library, netflix, and hulu.

Your report will only be read by me, so you should assume that I am familiar with the film; you may refer to particular scenes and events in the film without requiring complete description or quoting whole lines of dialogue if you are emphasizing an exchange. You have comparatively few words to make sophisticated, cogent arguments about the director’s treatment of the area, so do not waste your time on throat clearing, or waxing lyrical. Aim for the paper to have the same information content per paragraph as the textbook.

I estimate that between 500 and 1,000 words would be typical. You may use less or more, as you feel you need. If you refer to articles, analysis, or critical reviews of the film, you must include references to these materials.

Submit your paper in hardcopy on the last day of class: **Dec 8th 2015**.