Being Humans in the Age of AI
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We remain, for all our searching, alone in the universe. How do we get feedback on our performance as Human Beings? Are we doing this right, or terribly wrong? Driven, perhaps, by a collective case of imposter syndrome, we're creating someone else to ask.
We're living in the Age of Artificial Intelligence. Trained on the spoils of the Internet Age, machines can now do human stuff: master the most complex games, write, paint and compose, converse in multiple languages, drive a car on the busy streets of San Francisco.
This course is a primer for humans living in the Age of AI and an exploration of what it might mean to not be the only intelligence in town. You will gain a working understanding of what AI is (and isn't), where it came from, how it works, and where it's going. You'll get non-technical explanations of highly-technical concepts, jaw-dropping examples, helpful historical context and lots of colorful charts and diagrams.
A intellectually stimulating, challenging and fun six-week exploration of one of the most profound scientific and cultural developments in our short history as homo-sapiens.

Week 1 - AI Foundations - We'll look at the fundamentals of computing and information science that gave us the Internet and how the Internet gave us the fuel to build machines that can think
Week 2 - AI Fundamentals - We'll explore the various successful and not so successful approaches to build thinking machines and the surprising approach that's working
Week 3 - AI in Action - An action-packed review and demonstration of some of the many remarkable (and scary) things AI is doing in the world today
Week 4 - The Alignment Problem - King Midas would tell you to be careful what you ask for. How do we tell AI what we want without turning everything to gold? Or paperclips? We'll explore this very complex problem, and its very real consequences.
Week 5 - AI Futures I: Dystopia - Let's explore the ways things might go very badly for us in a world where we're the second-smartest species.
Week 6 - AI Futures II: Utopia - Let's explore why a human-engineered super-intelligence might be just what we need right now and make the case for being an enthusiastic member of Team AI!
If you're a human, this class is for you! You'll get…

- Comfort with a wealth AI concepts and vocabulary
- Familiarity with AI tools that might enrich your life
- An ability to engage in civic discussions of AI policy
- A +1 on your cocktail party conversation prowess
- An appreciation of the wondrous and magical time we are living in
- Fun. It will be lots of fun.