AI Basics for the Curious – Spring 2026

Session 3 of 6: AI Is A Massive Problem. Here's Why. The Rise of Artificial Intelligence Part 1: The Breakthroughs - March 10, 2026	
Instructor: Danny Torres Technology Communicator & AI Specialist Email: *danny.tech.world@gmail.com* Phone/Text: **714-461-1991**	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) California State University, Fullerton Mackey Auditorium (RGC-013)

Today's Class

Today, we explore how Artificial Intelligence evolved from early experiments into modern AI systems. We will watch the first 25 minutes of **AI Is A Massive Problem. Here's Why**. The final portion will be shown in the next session. Pay attention to the **key breakthroughs** along the way. Scan QR Code for YouTube Video:

Why This Video Was Chosen

• **Recent and relevant** — the video explains modern AI clearly using memorable examples such as chess and medical research.
• **Accessible and engaging** — the explanations are easy to follow and encourage viewers to explore more AI resources afterward.

The Big Story of AI

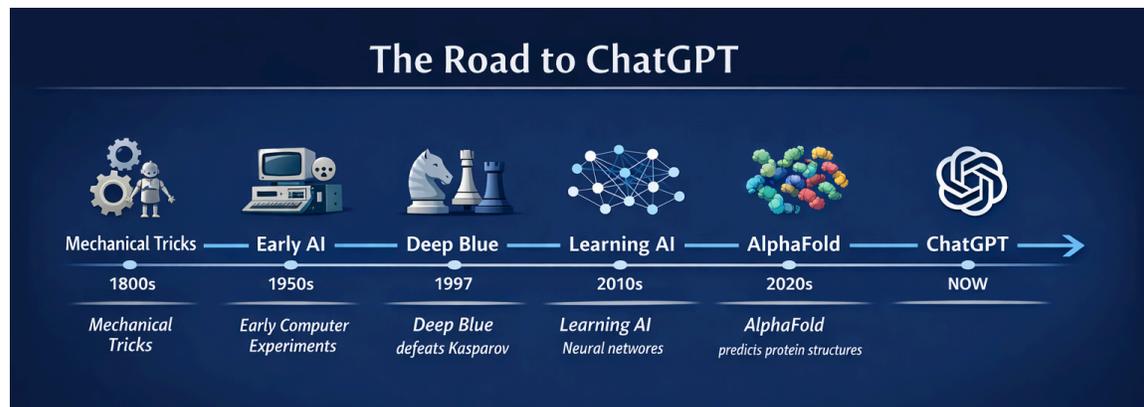Artificial intelligence did not appear suddenly. It evolved through several important stages.

Figure 1. The Road to ChatGPT: Major Milestones in AI Development

Key Ideas to Watch For

• **The shift from calculation to learning** — notice when computers begin improving through data rather than simply following instructions.
• **How AI spreads and accelerates** — watch how data and computing power speed progress, and how breakthroughs begin appearing in everyday life.

Five Questions to Keep in Mind

1. What changed in AI over time? How did it evolve—from tricks to calculation to learning?
2. When did progress suddenly speed up? Look for moments when development accelerates.
3. Where is AI already affecting everyday life? Phones, banking, healthcare, fraud detection, and recommendations.
4. What can AI do well—and where does it struggle? Notice the contrast between strengths and limits.
5. What surprised you most? Surprises often lead to the best discussion.

Questions to Ask:

• _____
• _____
• _____

Major Milestones Mentioned

• Early mechanical automata demonstrating artificial "thinking."
• **Deep Blue defeats Garry Kasparov** (1997)
• **AlphaGo defeats the world Go champion** (2016)
• **AlphaFold predicts protein structures**
• Modern **large language models** such as ChatGPT

Looking Ahead – Next Session (March 24, 2026)

Session 4:AI Is A Massive Problem. Here's Why-Part 2
Part 2: The Consequences

In the next class, we will finish the documentary and explore:
• What modern AI systems can do
• The benefits and risks of advanced AI
• How AI may affect society, work, and daily life