

**University of Manitoba – Department of Philosophy / School of Art
Theories of Creativity - Fall 2018**

Preparation-assignment 05 – for session Oct. 22nd

- A) On Monday Oct. 22nd I will give a recapitulation of the course so far, addressing the main points of the material we dealt with up to now in relation to the systematic questions regarding creativity, for the upcoming in-class test on Oct 29th, and **as a preparation for this:** Go again through all the texts that were assigned for reading so far and prepare questions regarding everything that is unclear. Do not hesitate to ask them in class or send them via email beforehand. These questions can even be quite basic.
- B) We engaged last class in particular in a debate regarding creativity in computers, on the occasion of discussing the text by Margaret Boden. I promised to offer additional material on this – thus, for those of you interested, here is a more recent (and also shorter) version of hers:
<https://futurism.com/can-computers-be-programmed-to-think-creatively>
Also I have uploaded chapter 11 from her book *The Creative Mind* (2004) where she addresses philosophical debates regarding this in more detail (about 10 pages after its beginning). The text is a bit too specialized for our purposes and also longer than necessary, thus, this is voluntary background-reading. Note: The “four Lovelace-questions” she addresses (referring to Ada Lovelace) are:
- 1) Can computational concepts help us to understand human creativity?
 - 2) Could a computer (now or in the future) appear to be creative?
 - 3) Could a computer ever appear to recognize creativity?
 - 4) Could a computer ever really be creative?
- Boden answers the first three questions with yes ... regarding the last one she has ... objections. We talked about our objections last class. (What are hers?)
- C) **Read and prepare for discussion the very short text-excerpt on “Po” by Edward de Bono** (distributed in class and uploaded on UMLearn). This is about the disposability (or not) of thinking in yes/no frameworks. Highly relevant.
- D) We still have not yet talked about the text by Arthur Koestler, assigned for last class. So: keep your comments and questions in mind from the last session-prep. (distributed in class and uploaded)
And ...
- E) Finally a brief comment is asked-from you to upload in the discussion forum: on the “Po”-excerpt regarding De Bono. How do you respond to it? What kind of ideas, questions, AHA’s and reactions does it provoke in you? Can you insert it somewhere into the context of our debates? (e.g. Wallas’ 4 stages?)