Please select 1 of the following 5 Thought Questions that were submitted by your classmates to be the Thought Question pondered for this week.

1. Do you believe that *objective* (e.g., not subject to opinion or debate) reality exists? If not, why not? If so, do you think we are capable of observing it or do you believe that the inability to do so is a limit to human comprehension?

2. In class on Wednesday, we discussed two possible fates for our Universe: eternal expansion, or eventual recollapse and, presumably, annihilation. Which would you prefer?

3. Are we nearing the “end of science”? That is, how much more new physical knowledge of our world and universe do you think we have yet to acquire or understand, that will drastically change the way we view ourselves and the world? Do you think there is such a thing as the grand unifying theory that Einstein believed in that has yet to be discovered and that will someday unite all scientific theory and physics under one universal law?

4. If the universe is infinite, wouldn’t it seem that all objects in the universe are infinitely small? When does something become large? Where is the line drawn between ‘big’ and ‘small’? Are humans big? What about stars?

5. Why should we study the heavens? What can looking at the stars tell us besides a better understanding of the universe? Since there may be few practical applications to the knowledge we learn through telescopes and observations, do you think the pursuit of astronomical knowledge ultimately useless, or do we gain something worthwhile when we learn about the physical universe?