**English 655: Post-Digital Rhetoric**

This course contends with rhetorical theory as it now emerges after rhetoric’s “digital turn.” While there is now a relatively long history of defining (Lanham 1989) or locating (Eyman 2015) “digital rhetoric,” this seminar is less concerned with disciplinary categorizations and more concerned with what rhetoric might mean or do in the era of unavoidable networks. As Casey Boyle, Steph Ceraso, and James J. Brown Jr. (2018) note, the notion of “digital” has become so pervasive and inescapable that digital rhetoric can no longer be considered as just one of countless available means of persuasion, but, alluding to Thomas Rickert (2013) more of an all-encompassing “ambient condition.” This seminar takes as its starting point the notion that digital rhetoric is still very much in a nascent stage; the “post” of “post-digital,” like other historical posts (post-structural, postcolonial, posthuman, etc.) is less a “beyond” or “after” and more a gesture towards recalibration. Or, as Judith Halberstram and Ira Livingston (1995) suggest, perhaps the “post” indicates the “regrettable failure to imagine what’s next.” Students in this course will be expected to complete a series of written responses to the readings, write and rewrite a book review that will be workshopped in class, compose a final seminar paper that engages with major ideas from the course, and actively drive class discussions.

This course meets the English department requirement for one course in theory.

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