

Plato feared the emergence of literacy because such would, in his mind, obfuscate both memory and the metaphysics of presence. While these concerns were/are entirely valid, our collective fetishization of literacy has rendered a new fear and problematic: an inability or unwillingness to approach the digital institution on its own terms (i.e., beyond the framework of “literacy”). Covid-19 clearly reflected such a conservative tendency in humanities academia (to preserve tradition and the status quo, regardless of cost or consequence); it further indicated a reaction time to emerging, digital technologies that is far too slow and thus unproductive. This course will explore digital writing and rhetoric in novel and experimental ways germane to the digital institution itself writ large—practically, pedagogically, and theoretically. You will walk away from this class as post-literate—dare we even say, *electrate*.