Indigenous sign-systems such as pictographs and ideographs are not cemented in some antiquated or obscure past. Non-alphabetic signs and symbols have always been living, fluid signifiers, responsive to diverse contexts and continuously adapting within and beyond logo-syllabic, alphabetic horizons of written communication. This course will provide a foundation for analyzing what self-proclaimed experts of writing so often fail to decipher: how Indigenous Mexican communities continue to create and circulate non-alphabetic inscriptions that are tied to the Valley of Mexico, greater Mexico, México Ocupado, and the México/U.S. borderlands.

Specifically, we will analyze how Indigenous signs and Mexican American symbols subvert and revise conventional Colonial Settler taxonomies of writing/art, annotation/illustration, poetry/prose, so-called visual/multimodal literacies and writing in digital environments.

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