

**Spring 2021**  
**English 365: Chicano/a Cultural Studies**  
**Stories of X**  
**T/Th 12:30-1:45 (Remote Scheduled)**

**Dr. Jesse Alemán**  
**jman@unm.edu**  
**CRN 55121**

**Course Description:**

This course will focus on the emergence of X in Chicax and Latinx literary and critical studies. We'll read posts, popular media pieces, and scholarly essays that call for, explain, or trouble the adoption of the X as it's currently in circulation. However, we'll also look at earlier appearances of the X to understand how it has traveled in our discursive histories, from its nineteenth-century use to signify anonymously authored texts by US Latinos to its adoption as the first rather than last letter of the words "Xicano" and "xicanisma," in ostensible homage to our indigenous linguistic roots and routes. Spanning translation to transgender studies, the X has stood in for, resisted, or expressed through X-ing the intersectionality of gender, race, sexualities, languages, borders, bodies, and belongings that Chicax and Latinx communities have crossed or crossed out for quite some time. This course will study these Stories of X to understand its long history in our cultural production and its resilience as a marker of presence in the face of absence.

Readings will include selected posts, media pieces, book chapters, and critical essays that engage the current use of "Chicax" and "Latinx" as terms and concepts, as well as selections from creative pieces, including Loreta Janeta Velazquez's *The Woman in Battle*, Ana Castillo's *Massacre of the Dreamers*, Cherrie Moraga's *A Xicana Codex*, Rigoberto González's memoir *Butterfly Boy*, Elizabeth Acevedo's YA novel, *The Poet X*, and poetry by Raquel Salas Rivera (to name only a few). Assignments include low-stakes discussion posts on Learn; brief (2pp) essays; and a longer final piece of our design.