

Dr. Darleen Pryds
Franciscan School of Theology/GTU
tel. 510-848-5232 ext. 21
dpryds@fst.edu

Generation X Spirituality SP 2030

Tuesdays, 2:10-5:00

Fall, 2002

This course actively explores the spirituality of Generation X. In the spirit of this generation, the class is taught in a communitarian way. Each person is responsible for sharing expertise and experience by actively preparing materials to present in class. Because the subject is new and raw, we will be exploring the core of the spirituality of Gen X by exploring our own spirituality through writing exercises that will form the foundation for a spiritual memoir. It is my contention that to understand and explore the authentic spirituality of Gen X, we may explore our own spiritual path. For the writing exercises, I recommend the writing books by Natalie Goldberg, especially Writing Down the Bones or Wild Mind and Old Friend from Far Away. How to Write Memoir (available only on CD).

Regular class attendance is assumed, as is the timely fulfillment of each of these requirements. No extensions given without prior consent of the professor. That means that all written assignments are due during class on the due date. Late papers are severely penalized. Any requests for extensions must be made before the due date and must be due to reasonable cause. All papers must be submitted in hardcopy. No computer attachments are accepted.

All written assignments should be written in correct, standard English. Any papers with more than 5 grammatical/spelling errors may be returned ungraded and counted as late until it is edited and resubmitted. Please contact the professor if this presents a challenge. There are plenty of resources around to help!

It is assumed that all students have access to the World Wide Web and to email. If this presents a problem, you must contact the professor immediately.

The class will read and discuss together these two Required Books:

Tom Beaudoin, Virtual Faith. The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X

Stephen Dinan, ed. Radical Spirit. Spiritual Writings from the Voice of Tomorrow

Each student will also choose to read 2 other books related to Gen X Spirituality. They may be from the [list of books provided](#), or they may be of your own choice, but the list you choose must be submitted in writing (typed) for approval by September 24.

Students will be evaluated on the following:

1. Active and thoughtful participation in class discussion (This includes but is not limited to the in-class writing exercises) (100 points)
2. Written book review (75 points) [These should be related to research project and are 3-5 pp. in length each] Due October 15 and December 3

3. Oral book review on book other than those for which you wrote a book review (50 points) [These should be related to research p project] Presentations November 5
 4. Ideal Worship Space Presentation (100 points) [This could be related to research project] Presentations on October 1
 5. Analysis of WebPage Presentation (100 points) [This should be related to your research project] Presentations on November 19
 6. Parish Visit and Oral Presentation (100 Points) [This could be related to your research project] Presentations on October 29
 7. Research Project (Format optional—check with professor first!; 10-15 pages) (200 points) Due December 10; NO EXTENSIONS
 8. Oral Presentation of Research Project (20-30 minutes) (100 points) Scheduled for December 3, 10
 9. Personal Prayer Beads and Prayer Books (ungraded, but not optional)
- There are no exams.

[Gen X Christian Music](#)

I. WHO ARE WE AS GENERATION X? (Weeks I-V)

Week One: September 3

Introduction to Gen X: Authenticity

Read: Virtual Faith, Part One, pp. 1-47; pp. 183-191

Radical Spirit, xi-xxi

Week Two: September 10

Gen X: Characterizations of an Entire Generation

Read: Virtual Faith, Part Two, pp. 51-142

Week Three: September 17

Internet Spirituality

Meet in Computer Lab at GTU Library

Read: Virtual Faith, Part Three, pp. 145-181.

Week Four: September 24

Life Stories as key to spiritual journey

Read: Radical Spirit, Part One, pp. 1-94

DUE: Proposed list of Books to Review

Week Five: October 1

What does Worship Look Like, Feel Like, Sound Like to Gen X?

Presentations on Ideal Worship Space

Sensual Prayer: Beads, Books, and?

II. HOW DOES CHURCH DEAL WITH GENERATION X? (Weeks VI-VIII)

Week Six: October 8

Gen X and Life Choices

Read: Radical Spirit, Part Two, pp. 95-201

Week Seven: October 15

Gen X and What We do with our Spirituality

Read: Radical Spirit, Part Three, pp.203-280

DUE: Book Review #1 Due in class; no extensions

NO Class October 22: Reading Week

Week Eight: October 29

Presentations on Parish Experience

III. HOW IS GENERATION X FED SPIRITUALLY? (Weeks IX-XIII)

Week Nine: November 5

Oral Book Reviews

Week Ten: November 12

Presentations of Prayer Beads and Prayer Books

Week Eleven: November 19

Meet in Computer GTU Library

Presentations on Webpage Analysis

Week Twelve: November 26

Drawing Conclusions about a Nebulous Generation

Week Thirteen: December 3

Oral Presentations

DUE: Book Review #2 due in class, no extensions

Week Fourteen: December 10

Oral Presentations

DUE: Written Projects due in Class, No Extensions