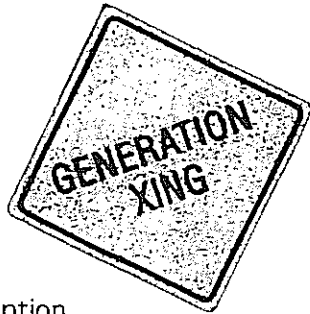


American Studies 175 (2 units), Fall 1995  
Wed 11:00-12:10, Porter College 250

**MCJOB:** A low-pay, low-prestige, low-dignity, low-benefit, no-future job in the service sector. Frequently considered a satisfying career choice by people who have never held one.



## Generation X

James Treat, Assistant Professor  
Office hours: Wed 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
Office: Oakes College 203, x3849

**KNEE-JERK IRONY:** The tendency to make flippant ironic comments as a reflexive matter of course in everyday conversation.

### Course Description

Twentysomethings? Baby Busters? Slackers? Whiners? Who/what/when/where/why is "Generation X"—and who cares, anyway? Traditional or progressive? Wealthy or wannabe? White or colorful? Multicultural or uncultured? Repressed or oversexed? Spiritual or technological? Courageous, apathetic, or terrified?

**ME-ISM:** A search by an individual, in the absence of training in traditional religious tenets, to formulate a personally tailored religion by themselves. Most frequently a mishmash of reincarnation, personal dialogue with a nebulously defined god figure, pluralism, and karmic eye-for-eye attitudes.

### Required Texts

Douglas Coupland, Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture (New York, NY: St. Martin's, 1991).

Geoffrey T. Holtz, Welcome to the Jungle: The Why Behind "Generation X" (New York, NY: St. Martin's, 1995).

Eric Liu (ed.), Next: Young American Writers on the New Generation (New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 1994).

Natasha Tarpley (ed.), Testimony: Young African-Americans on Self-Discovery and Black Identity (Boston, MA: Beacon, 1995).

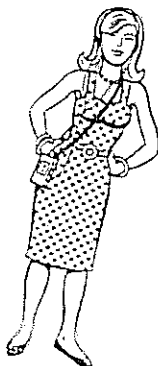
Michael Wexler and John Hulme (eds.), Voices of the Xiled: The Best Stories by the Best Young Writers in America (New York, NY: Doubleday, 1994).

### Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required. You will not pass the course if you miss more than one class OR if you miss class on Wednesday, November 22 (the day before Thanksgiving). Exceptions to this policy will be granted only for documented medical or family emergencies.

### **MID-TWENTIES**

**BREAKDOWN:** A period of mental collapse occurring in one's twenties, often caused by an inability to function outside of school or structured environments coupled with a realization of one's essential aloneness in the world. Often marks induction into the ritual of pharmaceutical usage.

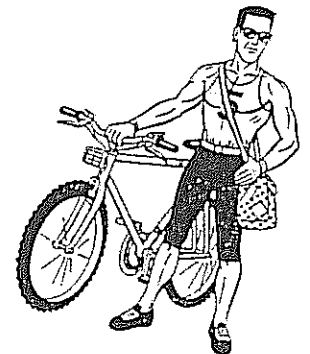


### Reading Schedule

To be determined.

### Writing Assignments

To be determined.



**EARTH TONES:** A youthful subgroup interested in vegetarianism, tie-dyed outfits, mild recreational drugs, and good stereo equipment. Earnest, frequently lacking in humor.