

# COURSE DETAIL

## CONTEMPORARY GERMAN LITERATURE: JENNY ERPENBECK'S GO WENT GONE

**Country**

Germany

**Host Institution**

Free University of Berlin

**Program(s)**

Free University Berlin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

German Comparative Literature

**UCEAP Course Number**

128

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

CONTEMPORARY GERMAN LITERATURE: JENNY ERPENBECK'S GO WENT GONE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

CONTEMP GERMAN LIT

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

**Course Description**

Jenny Erpenbeck's *Go, Went, Gone*, published in German in 2015, is a politically charged novel about the situation of African refugees in Berlin. Richard, an older German with a GDR background, gets involved with, and befriends, a number of African refugees at a protest camp on Oranienplatz in Kreuzberg. A former Classics professor who was recently forced into retirement, he empathizes with the refugees, who are not allowed to work under German asylum laws. Richard researches their plight and helps them with administrative and everyday tasks, even giving piano lessons to one of them. After a break-in at Richard's house, he and his friends question their own prejudices and attempt to learn from the experience. The novel serves as a starting point for the exploration of the political and human rights issues surrounding the situation of African refugees in Berlin. Some additional materials are provided to round out the discussion.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

16914

**Host Institution Course Title**

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**Host Institution Course Details**

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/940742?m=437653&pc=749257&sm=870180&id=940742>

**Host Institution Campus****Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Institut für deutsche und niederländische Philologie

**Course Last Reviewed**

2024-2025

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