

GO, WENT, GONE: LITERATURE OF IMMIGRATION AND EXILE

Everyone is someone else's outsider. This lively discussion course will consider four contemporary books about the immigrant experience by writers from four different countries: *Exit West* by Pakistan's Mohsin Hamid; *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison; *Go, Went, Gone* by Germany's Jenny Erpenbeck; and *Lucky Breaks* by Ukraine's Yevgenia Belorusets—as well as selected poems. A course for those who want a book club on steroids. Participants will read 100-150 pages a week.

Tentative Syllabus

Date	Assignments	Discussion Points
Class 1	“The Face in the Mirror” by Mohsin Hamid, https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/the-writers-voice/mohsin-hamid-reads-the-face-in-the-mirror and selected poems	<i>Introduction to the themes of exile and immigration (especially loss of identity and homeland) and to the literary styles Hamid, Morrison, Belorusets and Erpenbeck use to embody these themes.</i>
Class 2	<i>Exit West</i> , Chapters 1-6, pp. 1-118.	Leaving home: <i>The Door</i> .
Class 3	<i>Exit West</i> , Chapters, 7-12, 119-231	Coming back to where you never were: <i>The Return</i>
Class 4	<i>Lucky Breaks</i>	Individual stories of refugees and survivors in the Donbas, the coal region of Ukraine; coping with destruction.
Class 5	<i>Go, Went, Gone</i> , Chapters 1-28, pp. 3-140	Retirement and social responsibility; our obligations to immigrants.
Class 6	<i>Go, Went, Gone</i> , Chapters 29-55, pp. 141-283	The moral, social, and philosophical issues involved in helping those in need.
Class 7	<i>A Mercy</i> , pp. 1-100	Abandonment as love; the nature of mercy.
Class 8	<i>A Mercy</i> , pp. 101-167 Closing discussion and celebratory review	The connection between exile, mercy, and art. Recreating identity through narration.

LEADER: Lois Marie Harrod has spent much of her life teaching, reading, writing. Her 18th book of poetry, *Spat*, was published in June 2021. See **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

FORMAT: Virtual

MAXIMUM: 18

WEDNESDAYS 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. 8 sessions starting September 28th through November 30th

No class on October 5th and November 23rd