COM 386 / EVSC 494

Annotated Reading List

Bryce Courtenay, *The Power of One*, 1996, $14.95. Moving novel about an English boy’s childhood and struggle to fit in during World War II. Highly recommended by one student – so much so that he purchased a copy for me to read!

Johan du Toit, et al., *The Kruger Experience: Ecology and Management of Savanna Heterogeneity*, 2003, $40.00. I just ordered this book and am enjoying parts of it immensely. It’s extremely specific focus and high price deterred us from assigning it for the class, though I am sure we will read a few chapters out of it. Perhaps worthwhile for the hardcore environmental scientists/ecologists in the crowd …

David Goodman, *Fault Lines: Journeys into the New South Africa* (Updated with a New Afterword), April 2002, $17.95 I just ordered this book on the strength of its reviews. It’s supposed to be a good treatment of post-apartheid South Africa. “This riveting account of postapartheid South Africa is rooted in the personal experiences of people who live there: the ordinary and the famous, the rich and poor, black and white. The voices of ordinary people are dramatic and immediate.” -- Hazel Rochman, *Booklist*


James Michener, *The Covenant*, 1987, $7.99. An historical novel, like most of his books … this one begins with the first human inhabitants of South Africa and weaves a story up through the early 1980s (stopping short of the fall of apartheid). I enjoy reading fiction, and so this book was much more interesting to me than Thompson’s.

Alan Paton, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, $14.00. This book was recommended strongly to me by a member of my youth group and her father. Apparently it has just enjoyed renewed popularity as a result of its listing on Oprah’s book club. From the review: “Cry the Beloved Country is a beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s. The book is written with such keen empathy and understanding that to read it is to share fully in the gravity of the characters' situations. It both touches your heart deeply and inspires a renewed faith in the dignity of mankind.

Leonard Thompson, *A History of South Africa*, 3rd Ed., 1992, $17.95. We assigned this book last year as background reading, but I’m not sure anyone (including me!) finished it – the writing style is dense and pedantic (though it’s quite comprehensive). I preferred and learned a lot more from Michener’s *The Covenant* (see above).