

Here is a sample syllabus for a thirteen week course that follows the structure of *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Story of the Bible*. It is based on fourteen years of teaching a similar course several times each year. It will need to be adjusted, of course, for each setting depending on level of students, length of time, addition or subtraction of material, other personal preferences, etc.

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE:

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of the biblical story in its progressive unfolding of the history of redemption against the backdrop of creation and sin. Attention is given to the literary, historical, cultural, and theological dimensions of Scripture as it offers a metanarrative or 'worldview-story.' Emphasis is placed on the unity of Scripture as it reaches its fullness and fulfillment in Christ.

COURSE GOALS

1. To unfold the story of redemption as it is narrated in Scripture.
2. To deepen awareness and sensitivity of the Biblical story and our place in that story.
3. To discern the major themes of the biblical story such as creation, fall, redemption- consummation, kingdom of God, covenant, and mission.
4. To understand the authority of the Biblical story for cultural and academic activity.

COURSE READINGS

Bartholomew, Craig and Michael Goheen. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Story of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books. [BG1]

*Bartholomew, Craig and Michael Goheen. *The Story-Line of the Bible*. [BG2]

*Bartholomew, Craig and Michael Goheen. *Story and Biblical Theology*. [BG3]

Newbigin, Lesslie. *Walk Through the Bible*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. [LN]

**Our World Belongs to God. A Contemporary Testimony*. Grand Rapids: CRC Publications. [CT]

*Peterson, Eugene. *Living Into God's Story*. [EP]

*Wright, N. T. *How Can the Bible Be Authoritative?* [NTW]

* Can be found on website: www.biblicaltheology.ca

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. All students are expected to attend all class periods.
2. All assigned readings should be completed before class date assigned. The assigned readings and Bible should be brought to class.
3. Tests are to be written at assigned times
4. Two thousand word written response to *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*.

COURSE EVALUATION

1. First Test: 20%
Why is it important to understand the Bible as one unfolding story? [Resources: BG3, EP, NTW. Time: 1 hour.]
2. Second Test: 30%
Tell the story of the Bible. [Resources: BG2 and LN. Time: 1 hour 20 minutes.]
3. Final exam: 40%
Tell the story of the Bible [Resources: Lecture notes and BG1. Time: 3.5 hours.]
4. Response to “Contemporary Testimony”: 10%

COURSE OVERVIEW

PROLOGUE: THE BIBLE AS A GRAND STORY

- A. Living Out of a Story
- B. The Bible as the True Story of the World

ACT ONE: GOD ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM: CREATION

- A. Genesis 1 in its Ancient Near Eastern Setting
- B. Literary Structure of Genesis 1
- C. Creation and the Kingdom of God
- D. Teaching of Genesis 1

ACT TWO: REBELLION IN THE KINGDOM: FALL

- A. Genesis 3 Account
- B. Consequences of Sin
- C. Sin as Idolatry, Autonomy, Covenant Rebellion, Destructive Power
- D. Universal Scope of Sin
- F. Sin: Distortion of the Good Creation

ACT THREE: THE KING CHOOSES ISRAEL: REDEMPTION INITIATED

SCENE ONE: BEFORE ISRAEL

- A. Genesis 3-11: God’s Intent to Redeem In Spite of Sin
- B. Noahic Covenant

SCENE TWO: FORMATION OF A PEOPLE

- A. Abrahamic Covenant
- B. Genesis 12-50: Patriarchal Narratives
- C. Exodus: Formation of a People
- D. In the Wilderness: Numbers and Deuteronomy

SCENE THREE: ISRAEL ON THE LAND

- A. Joshua: God Gives Israel the Land
- B. Judges: Covenant Rebellion in the Land
- C. Samuel: Israel Transformed into a Kingdom
- D. Kings: Israel’s Covenant Rebellion
- E. Exile and Return
- F. Ezra-Nehemiah
- G. Prophetic Message

INTERLUDE: A KINGDOM STORY WAITING FOR AN ENDING: THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

ACT FOUR: THE COMING OF THE KING: REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED

- A. The Kingdom Mission of Jesus
- B. Crucifixion of Jesus
- C. Resurrection of Jesus
- D. Disciples Commissioned

ACT FIVE: SPREADING THE NEWS OF THE KING: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

SCENE ONE: FROM JERUSALEM TO ROME

- A. Exaltation of Jesus
- B. Pentecost

C. Story of Acts

D. Paul: Journeys and Epistles

SCENE TWO: INTO ALL THE WORLD

A. Our Place in the Story

ACT SIX: THE RETURN OF THE KING: REDEMPTION COMPLETED

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One

Text Reading: BG1: 11-27, BG3, EP, NTW

Lecture Content: The Bible as a Grand Story

Week Two

Test One: Why is it important to understand the Bible as one story?

Bible Reading: Genesis 1-2

Lecture Content: Act One: Creation

Week Three

Bible Reading: Genesis 3, 6-9, 11

Text Reading: BG1, 29-53; CT, par.1-18.

Lecture Content: Act Two: Fall; Gen.3-11

Week Four

Bible Reading: Genesis 12, 15-17; Exodus 5-14

Text Reading: BG1, 53-73; CT, 19-23.

Lecture Content: Patriarchal Narratives, Exodus

Week Five

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 29, 30; Joshua 23, 24

Text Reading: BG1, 73-85.

Lecture Content: Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua

Week Six

Bible Reading: Judges 2, 2 Samuel 7, 2 Kings 17

Text Reading: BG1, 85-104

Lecture Content: Judges, Samuel, Kings

Week Seven

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1-6. Isaiah 40.

Text Reading: BG1, 105-127.

Lecture Content: Prophets, Ezra, Nehemiah, Intertestamental Period

Week Eight

Bible Reading: Mark 1-3.

Text Reading: BG1, 129-154.

Lecture Content: Jesus' Kingdom Mission

Week Nine

Bible Reading: Mark 14-16

Text Reading: BG1, 154-170; CT, 24-29

Lecture Content: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Week Ten

Bible Reading: Luke 24, Acts 1-2

Text Reading: BG1, 171-176; CT, 30-36.

Lecture Content: Jesus' Resurrection and Exaltation, Pentecost

Week Eleven

Bible Reading: Acts 3-6, 13-14.

Text Reading: BG1, 177-195; CT, 37-43.

Lecture Content: Acts, Paul

Week Twelve

Bible Reading: I Corinthians 1-2; Romans 1-3

Text Reading: BG1, 195-206; CT, 44-55

Lecture Content: Our Place in the Story

Week Thirteen

Bible Reading: Revelation 21-22

Text Reading: BG1, 207-213; CT, 56-58.

Lecture Content: New Creation