Here is a sample syllabus for a thirteen-week course that follows the structure of *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*. 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, and personal preferences.

**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 of and sensitivity toward the biblical story and our place in that story.

3. To discern the major themes of the biblical story, such as creation, fall, redemption, 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 Biblical Story*.2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. (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: Westminster John Knox. (LN)

*\*Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony.* (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](http://www.biblicaltheology.ca)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. All students are expected to attend all class periods.

2. All assigned readings should be completed before the assigned class date. The assigned readings and Bible should be brought to class.

3. Tests are to be written at assigned times.

4. Submit a 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 1  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 2  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

E. Sin: Distortion of the Good Creation

ACT 3  THE KING CHOOSES ISRAEL: REDEMPTION INITIATED

SCENE 1: BEFORE ISRAEL

A. Genesis 3–11: God’s Intent to Redeem in Spite of Sin

B. Noahic Covenant

SCENE 2: 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 3: 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 4  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 5 SPREADING THE NEWS OF THE KING: THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

SCENE 1: FROM JERUSALEM TO ROME

A. Exaltation of Jesus

B. Pentecost

C. Story of Acts

D. Paul: Journeys and Epistles

SCENE 2: INTO ALL THE WORLD

A. Our Place in the Story

ACT 6  THE RETURN OF THE KING: REDEMPTION COMPLETED

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

***Week One***

# Text Reading: BG1, 17–23; BG3; EP; NTW

Lecture Content: The Bible as a Grand Story

***Week Two***

Bible Reading: Genesis 1–2

Lecture Content: Act 1 (Creation)

***Week Three***

Bible Reading: Genesis 3, 6–9, 11

Text Reading: BG1, 25–52; CT, paras. 1–18

Lecture Content: Act 2 (Fall); Genesis 3–11

***Week Four***

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

Text Reading: BG1, 52–74; CT, 19–23

Lecture Content: Patriarchal Narratives, Exodus

***Week Five***

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

Text Reading: BG1, 74–87

Lecture Content: Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua

***Week Six***

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

Text Reading: BG1, 87–108

Lecture Content: Judges, Samuel, Kings

***Week Seven***

Bible Reading: Nehemiah 1–6; Isaiah 40

Text Reading: BG1, 108–34

Lecture Content: Prophets, Ezra, Nehemiah, Intertestamental Period

***Week Eight***

Bible Reading: Mark 1–3

Text Reading: BG1, 135–67

# Lecture Content: Jesus’s Kingdom Mission

***Week Nine***

Bible Reading: Mark 14–16

Text Reading: BG1, 167–84; CT, 24–29

Lecture Content: Jesus’s Death and Resurrection

***Week Ten***

# Bible Reading: Luke 24; Acts 1–2

Text Reading: BG1, 185–91; CT, 30–36

Lecture Content: Jesus’s Resurrection and Exaltation, Pentecost

## Week Eleven

Bible Reading: Acts 3–6, 13–14

Text Reading: BG1, 191–212; CT, 37–43

Lecture Content: Acts, Paul

## Week Twelve

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 1–2; Romans 1–3

Text Reading: BG1, 212–25; CT, 44–55

Lecture Content: Our Place in the Story

***Week Thirteen***

Bible Reading: Revelation 21–22

Text Reading: BG1, 227–34; CT, 56–58

Lecture Content: New Creation