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. *Story and Biblical Theology*. [BG3]


*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](http://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

   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