

SAMPLE SYLLABI

The Hebrew Bible: A Comparative Approach is the only book that you will need (apart from the Bible itself) to teach a semester-long introductory course on the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Each chapter includes not only vital information about the background and content of the Hebrew Bible but also hands-on exercises that require students to read and engage with biblical texts that are relevant to the chapter. As long as the students read these materials, no additional readings from the Hebrew Bible are necessary. Of course, instructors are free to supplement or replace these exercises with other biblical readings if they choose.

With thirty-eight chapters, *The Hebrew Bible: A Comparative Approach* was designed for a course that meets three times per week. But the content can easily be adapted to fit a course that meets twice a week, and it could even work for a course that meets once a week, though that would not be ideal. The links below contain sample syllabi that show how the readings might be structured to suit various course formats during a fourteen-week semester.

Three Classes Per Week (42 Sessions)

Two Classes Per Week (28 Sessions)

One Class Per Week (14 Sessions)

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

**Three Classes Per Week (42 Sessions),
50 Minutes per Session**

Part I: Background Issues

<i>Session</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Introduction to Course	Intro for Students
2	What is Scripture?	Chapter 1
3	Hebrew Bible or Old Testament?	Chapter 2
4	What's in the Hebrew Bible?	Chapter 3
5	Where Did the Hebrew Bible Come From?	Chapter 4
6	Academic Study of the Hebrew Bible	Chapter 5

PART II: The World of the Hebrew Bible

7	The Importance of Geography	Chapter 6
8	Everyday Life in Biblical Times	Chapter 7
9	The Grand Narrative	Chapter 8
10	Narrative and History	Chapter 9

Part III: The Religion of the Hebrew Bible

11	The Hebrew Bible as a Religious Text	Chapter 10
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A. Theological Presuppositions

12	The Nature of the Universe	Chapters 11
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13	The Supernatural World	Chapter 12
14	On Being Human	Chapters 13
15	The Ideal Society	Chapter 14
<i>B. The Importance of Stories</i>		
16	Stories and Faith	Chapters 15
17	Stories of Origins	Chapter 16
18	Ancestral Narratives	Chapter 17
19	The Exodus Story	Chapter 18
20	The Deuteronomistic Narrative: Overview	Chapter 19
21	The Deuteronomistic Narrative: Individual Stories	Chapter 20
22	Post-Exilic Narratives	Chapter 21
<i>C. The Centrality of Torah</i>		
23	The Laws of Torah	Chapter 22
24	Purity Laws	Chapter 23
25	Social Laws	Chapter 24
<i>D. Worship in Ancient Israel</i>		
26	Encountering the Holy	Chapter 25
27	Family Religion	Chapter 26
28	Community Religion	Chapter 27
29	State Religion	Chapter 28
30	The Sacrificial System	Chapter 29
31	Worship in the Psalms	Chapter 30

E. The Prophetic Tradition

32	The World of the Prophets	Chapter 31
33	Early Pre-Exilic Prophets	Chapter 32
34	Later Pre-Exilic Prophets	Chapter 33
35	Exilic Prophets	Chapter 34
36	Post-Exilic Prophets	Chapter 35
37	The Rise of Apocalyptic	Chapter 36

F. The Wisdom Tradition

38	The Primary Tradition	Chapter 37
39	Other Voices	Chapter 38

Note: This schedule leaves three free class sessions (40-42) for exploring particular subjects in more depth (e.g., , pursuing the interests of the instructor or students, holding exams, etc.

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

**Two Classes Per Week (28 Sessions),
75 Minutes per Session**

Part I: Background Issues

<i>Session</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Introduction to Course	Intro for Students
2	What is Scripture?	Chapter 1
3	What is the Hebrew Bible?	Chapters 2, 3
4	Where Did the Hebrew Bible Come From?	Chapter 4
5	Academic Study of the Hebrew Bible	Chapter 5
6	The World of the Hebrew Bible	Chapters 6, 7
7	Narrative and History	Chapters 8, 9

Part II: The Religion of the Hebrew Bible

A. Theological Presuppositions

7	The Nature of the Universe	Chapters 10, 11
8	The Supernatural World	Chapter 12
9	God and Humans	Chapters 13, 14

B. The Importance of Stories

10	Stories of Origins	Chapters 15, 16
11	Ancestral Narratives	Chapter 17
12	The Exodus Story	Chapter 18
13	The National Epic	Chapters 19, 20

14	Other Narratives	Chapter 21
<i>C. The Centrality of Torah</i>		
15	The Laws of Torah	Chapter 22
16	Purity Laws	Chapter 23
17	Social Laws	Chapter 24
<i>D. Worship in Ancient Israel</i>		
18	Personal and Family Religion	Chapters 25, 26
19	Community and State Religion	Chapters 27, 28
20	The Sacrificial System	Chapter 29
21	Worship in the Psalms	Chapter 30
<i>E. The Prophetic Tradition</i>		
22	The World of the Prophets	Chapter 31
23	Pre-Exilic Prophets	Chapters 32, 33
24	Exilic Prophets	Chapter 34
25	Post-Exilic Prophets	Chapter 35
26	The Rise of Apocalyptic	Chapter 36
<i>F. The Wisdom Tradition</i>		
27	The Primary Tradition	Chapter 37
28	Other Voices	Chapter 38

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

**One Class Per Week (14 Sessions),
2 ½ Hours per Session**

Part I: Background Issues

<i>Session</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
1	Introduction to Course What is Scripture?	Intro for Students Chapter 1
2	What is the Hebrew Bible? Where Did the Hebrew Bible Come From?	Chapters 2, 3, 4
3	Academic Study of the Hebrew Bible The World of the Hebrew Bible	Chapters 5, 6, 7
4	Narrative and History	Chapters 8, 9

Part II: The Religion of the Hebrew Bible

A. Theological Presuppositions

5	The Nature of the Universe The Supernatural World	Chapters 10, 11, 12
6	God and Humans	Chapters 13, 14

B. The Importance of Stories

7	Stories of Origins Ancestral Narratives	Chapters 15, 16, 17
8	The Exodus Story The National Epic	Chapters 18, 19, 20

C. The Centrality of Torah

9	The Laws of Torah Purity and Social Laws	Chapters 22, 23, 24
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D. Worship in Ancient Israel

10 Local Religion Chapters 25, 26, 27

11 State Religion Chapters 28, 29, 30

E. The Prophetic Tradition

12 The World of the Prophets Chapters 31, 32, 33
 Pre-Exilic Prophets

13 Exilic and Post-Exilic Prophets Chapters 34, 35, 36
 The Rise of Apocalyptic

F. The Wisdom Tradition

14 The Primary Tradition Chapters 37, 38
 Other Voices