I. History of Torah and Halakhah
   A. Pre-Sinai
   B. Sinai (Oral and Written revelation)
   C. Midrash Halakha / Midrash Aaggada (d’oraita, d’rabbanan)
   D. Writing down the Oral Tradition
   E. End of Ordination; new calendar
   F. Mishnah/Gemara/ (tana’im, amora’im)
   G. Gaonic System
   H. Rishonim (Codes and Commentary)
   I. Acharonim (Codes and Commentary)
   J. Contemporary (Responsa literature)

Readings: Jay M. Harris, “How Do We Know This?” Benjamin Lau, “The Sages.” Pirkei Avot, Chapter 1

II. Shabbat
   A. Zachor - Remember (Positive mitzvot of Shabbat)
      1. Kiddush
      2. Havdalah
      3. Kavod Shabbat
      4. Oneg Shabbat
      5. The Shabbat meal, (Shalom Aleichem, Eishet Hayil, zemirot)
   B. Shamor - Protect (Negative mitzvot of Shabbat)
      1. Definition of Melakhah (task) (Mishkan: method and goal)
      2. De’oritya – Biblical prohibitions - Avot (Central Categories) and Toldot (sub-categories)
      3. Derabbanan – Rabbinic prohibitions
      4. Muktzeh – Items which are “set aside” from Shabbat use
      5. Cooking on Shabbat and preparing warm foods.
      6. ‘MiMtzo Chetzecha veDaber Dvar’ – ‘Not to pursue your needs, or speak your speech’
      7. Tirchah - Strain and “Shabbaton” in Ramban
      8. Transport between areas on Shabbat
      9. Techum
   C. Communal (Shul, Musaf, Keriat haTorah)

III. Holidays
   A. Sanctity of Time
1. Sanhedrin sanctifies time; 'Tikriu Atem'
2. Each day has a defined nature, annually; time is spiral, not linear
3. Re-experienced; 'L'harot et atzmo

B. Calendar
1. The court-designated New Moon - Kiddush haChodesh Al Pi Beit Din
2. The old system of Signals (c.f. “Lord of the Rings”)
3. S'feika deYoma - The doubtful day
4. Birkat haChodesh - Blessing the new month
5. Kiddush Levanah - Celebrating the new month
6. Ibbur baShanah - Intercalating Adar 2
7. Hillel II and others cementing the calendar

C. Joyous celebrations
1. Rosh Hodesh
2. Rosh haShanah
3. Yom Kippur
4. Succot, Haschanah Rabbah
5. Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah
6. Hanukkah
7. Tu bShvat – Tax day – beginning of fiscal year
8. Purim, (Purim Katan in a leap year)
9. Pesach, (Pesach Sheni)
10. The Omer, and Lag baOmer
11. Shavuot
12. Ochel Nefesh and observing yom tov
13. Hol HaMoed

D. Fast days
1. Tzom Gedaliah (Fast of Gedaliah)
2. Yom Kippur
3. Asarah beTevet (10th of Tevet)
4. Ta'anit EstHer (Fast of Esther)
5. Ta'anit Bechorim (Fast of the First-born)
6. Shivah Asar beTammuz (17th of Tammuz), the 3 Weeks
7. Tishah be’Av (9th of Av)

Readings: R. Greenberg, “The Jewish Way”

IV. Keeping Kosher –
A. Kosher species
B. Non-Kosher parts of kosher animals
C. Methods of absorption of taste
D. Mixtures of meat and milk
E. Bugs
F. Notein Taam, Taam Lifgam, and kosher equipment
   1. Halachic reality and Practical reality
   2. Why not just have one pot and wait 24 hours?
G. Fish and meat
H. Kashering Utensils and Ovens
I. Areas of difficulty
   1. Sink
   2. Microwave
   3. Dishwasher
   4. Guests, Housekeepers
J. Waiting between dairy and meat
K. Tithing and other mitzvot connected to Israeli produce
L. Other produce issues
   1. Insects
   2. *Orlah* [First 3 years of a tree]
   3. *Kilayim* [Mixed species]
   4. *Yashan/Chadash* [Using the new year’s grain]
   5. *Challah* [Tithing dough]
   6. *Shemitah* [The Sabbatical Year]
M. *Tevillat Kelim* - immersing kitchen equipment
O. What is a “reliable Hechsher?”


V. Kosher Speech
A. Slander
   1. *Motzi Shem Ra* - Lies
   2. *Lashon haRa* - Truth
   3. *LeToelet* - Justifications
B. *Sheker*, and *Shalom* [Lying for peace] exceptions
C. *Ona’aab* - Oppression
   1. Fraud
   2. Causing pain
D. *Lifnei Iver* - Causing the blind to stumble
   1. *Meisit* - Inducing sin
   2. *Misyeia* - Aiding sin
   3. *Lifnei Iver* - Triggering / enabling sin

VI. Blessings
A. After eating
B. Before eating
C. On other benefits
D. Other blessings
   1. *Asher Yatzar* - After using the washroom
   2. *Oseh Maaseh Bereishit* - Recognizing Divine Creation

VII. Laws of Niddah (aka Family Purity)
Readings: Deena Zimmerman, “A Lifetime Companion to the Laws of Jewish Family Life”

VIII. Jewish Philosophy
   A. Who is God?
   B. What is the Torah?
      1. History of Torah (written, oral)
      2. The Mitzvah of Torah study
   C. Roles of Jews and non-Jews
   D. Reward and punishment in this world and the next
   E. Individual and Community
   F. Roles of men and women
   G. Evolution and Creationism
   H. Mashiach

Readings: R. Jonathan Sacks “A Letter in the Scroll”