

Requests for Advanced Placement in Biblical Courses Duke University Divinity School, 2017-18

Advanced placement allows a student to waive an introductory course requirement and elect upper-level coursework in OT or NT. It does not confer course credit; the total number of courses required in both OT and NT remains the same (i.e., 2 courses in each).

Advanced placement is rarely advisable in biblical studies. The Divinity School's introductory Bible courses cover much more ground than undergraduate survey courses, even if there is some overlap at times. Divinity courses are graduate-level engagements with (1) the content of the OT and NT and (2) the historical context and literary formation of the biblical books, but also especially with (3) exegetical writing and (4) the theological interpretation of Scripture, particularly with a view towards preaching and ministry. Undergraduate courses often cover certain aspects of #1 and #2, but rarely comprehensively. Much less frequently do they address #3 or #4 in a manner suitable for pastoral formation. Most students are therefore well advised to take the Divinity School's introductory Bible courses even if they have previously done some coursework in biblical studies at the undergraduate level. Whatever background they have already gained will enable them to focus more intently on the aspects of these divinity courses that will be new to them. A prior single-semester OT course is never considered an adequate replacement for the Divinity School's year-long OT introduction.

If you believe, however, that your background does warrant advanced placement in either OT or NT (or both), please contact the appropriate faculty member:

- A student requesting advanced placement in OT should contact Dr. Stephen Chapman.
- A student requesting advanced placement in NT should contact Dr. Ross Wagner. (Since the NT introduction is taught only during the spring semester, this contact is better initiated during the pre-registration period beginning in mid-October.)

Please send the following materials via email to help the professor better understand the academic basis for your request:

- Your undergraduate transcript, showing the biblical courses that you have taken and the grades you received.
- Syllabi from those courses.
- Papers written for those courses, particularly papers demonstrating exegetical competency.

If it is not possible to secure all of these items, do the best you can. The documents you produce will facilitate conversations about the best course of action for you.