

## Requests for Advanced Placement in Theology Courses

Duke University Divinity School, 2017-18

Advanced placement allows a student to waive an introductory course requirement in either Christian theology (XTIANTHE 755) or Christian ethics (XTIANTHE 757) or both, and elect upper-level coursework in their stead. It does not confer course credit. The total number of theological courses required remains the same (i.e., 2 courses, 1 in theology and 1 in ethics).

Advanced placement in theological studies may be considered if a course from another institution covers the same material as the Introduction to Christian Theology (XTIANTHE 755) and/or the Introduction to Christian Ethics (XTIANTHE 757). Students wishing to be considered for advanced placement must submit (1) a PDF copy of the syllabus (or syllabi) from the course/s that substitute for the DDS course/s, (2) a record of the course grade from the substitute course, and (3) a completed advanced placement request form (available from the registrar's office).

- A student who receives advanced placement must take a course at the 800 level or higher.
- The course in fulfillment of advanced placement must be taken on a graded basis.
- The advanced placement form can be found online under forms and paradigms of the Duke Divinity Website – <https://divinity.duke.edu/for-students/academic-resources/forms>

It is important that the syllabus provides evidence that the course sufficiently covers the same ground and at the same level. For example, a philosophical based approach to religion that does not treat either the history or nature of Christian doctrine or a significant number of major theological figures would not be a suitable substitute. Likewise, in ethics, a course that does not cover Christian approaches to ethics will also not count as an equivalent.

The theology and ethics introductory courses are ecumenical in scope. Courses with a focus that draw from a very narrow range of source material and theological doctrines may not be considered as suitable alternatives for advanced placement.

Students are reminded that the Divinity School's introductory theology and ethics courses are graduate-level engagements (1) with a broad range of theological and ethical subjects, (2) from a variety of contemporary critical theoretical perspectives, and (3) with special attention to the theological and moral reflective skills required for Christian ministry. Undergraduate courses often cover certain aspects of these, but rarely an equivalent level, and much less frequently address the dimension suitable for pastoral formation. Most students are therefore well advised to take the Divinity School's introductory theology and ethics courses even if they have previously done some coursework in theological 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.

If you believe, however, that your background does warrant advanced placement in either theology or ethics (or both), please contact Dr. Curtis Freeman, Research Professor of Theology, [cfreeman@div.duke.edu](mailto:cfreeman@div.duke.edu) (919-660-3599).