

THEO 5300 – Systematic Theology 1
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall 2015 – Mondays, 9:00–11:50 AM

Professor

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Course Description

This first course in systematic theology introduces the student to the methodology of theology (Prolegomena) and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ. The biblical foundations and the relevant historical developments are considered in construction of a Christian understanding of each doctrine.

Core Value Focus

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with Doctrinal Integrity and Mission Focus especially highlighted in this course. Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is **Mission Focus**, which is stated as follows: “Our Seminary does not exist merely to get an education or to give an education. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.”

Student Learning Outcomes

The student, by the end of the course, should:

1. be able to understand theological method and the doctrines of revelation, God, humanity, and the person of Christ biblically, historically, and systematically.
2. be able to apply theology by integrating these doctrines into a coherent, comprehensive, and consistent Christian worldview.
3. be able to communicate these doctrines in the particular ministry calling and context of the learner.

Required Texts

- Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013. ISBN: 978-0801036439.
- Holy Bible. You may bring any reliable, modern translation.
- Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011. ISBN: 978-1608998449.
- Putman, Rhyne R. *In Defense of Doctrine: Evangelicalism, Theology, and Scripture*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. ISBN: 978-1451472165.

Recommended Text

- Turabian, Kate. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Eighth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0226816388.

Course Requirements (424 total points possible)

- **Reflective Essays** (1 double-spaced page, 250-300 words). Each paper is worth a possible 10 points and is meant to be a creative, reflective essay. Avoid first person (“I, me, my”); simply state things as fact. You may cite names and Bible verses, but please do not include any quotations due to space constraints. This reflective essay is not meant to be a summary of a doctrine but your thoughts on the topic **after reading the textbook**. A 10-point paper meets the length requirement and has excellent content, grammar, and syntax. A 9-point paper has a minor problem with the length, grammar, or syntax. A 7- or 8-point paper has multiple problems. Reflective essays will only be accepted online by the due date/time. See **Rubric for Assessing Reflective Essays** below. **Submit online.** 100 points possible.

- **General Revelation Assignment (Embedded Assignment)**

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.

- Using the materials from your assigned systematic theology textbook and other theological resources (like commentaries, other theological textbooks or monographs), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation.
- What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism?
- Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel.
- This assignment should be 800-1200 words in length. Cite parenthetically.
- **Please submit online. 24 points possible.**

DOMAIN	LEVEL	Inade- quate (0 pts)	Basic (1 pt)	Compe- tent (2 pts)	Good (3 pts)	Excellent (4pts)
Understanding	Able to understand the doctrinal topic.					
Application	Able to apply knowledge by relating it to the broader Christian worldview.					

Communication	Able to communicate the doctrine to a ministry audience.				
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- **Book Reviews** (4–5 single-spaced pages, 12-pt. Times New Roman). You will read and review **two books**, *In Defense of Doctrine* and *The Spiritual Condition of Infants*. Each review should address issues such as: explanation and critique of the author’s thesis, assumptions, method, sources, logic, and style; specific examples of strengths and weaknesses of the book; discuss its usefulness for the intended audience; mention how the book contributes to its field, other books which explore the issue, and whether or not you would recommend the book and why. Cite page numbers parenthetically; no footnotes; use quotations sparingly. **Submit online.** (See **Rubric for Grading Book Review.**) **50 pts. ea. = 100 pts.**

- **Research Paper** (10–12 double-spaced pages plus bibliography). The paper will be a summary and critique of a theologian’s doctrine of Revelation, God, Man, or Sin. (Instructions and rubric in syllabus.) **100 total points**, due **online** in **stages**:
 - Choose Theologian and Doctrine for Paper. 5 points.
 - Reference Summary. 15 points.
 - Bibliography. 10 points.
 - Article Summary 1. 10 points.
 - Article Summary 2. 10 points.
 - Research Paper. 50 points.

- **Final Exam.** This will consist of various types of questions (multiple choice, short essay, T/F, etc.) based on class notes, discussions, and textbooks. **100 points.**

Additional Course Information

My policies for academic honesty, the grading scale, and disabilities follow the standards for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Attendance

Per the catalogue, “Students may not miss more than 9 class hours for a 3-semester hour course.”

Policy Regarding Late Work

Late work will not be accepted.

Special Accommodations

Please see Dr. Steve Lemke to request special educational accommodations.

Using Technology in the Classroom

In this class, you may:

- not use laptops or phones.
- record classes with any type of audio or video recording device. Please let me know if you plan to do so.
- use paper and a pen or pencil. For most students, this is the best option.

Study Tips

1. Plan to study 2–3 hours for every 1 hour in class.
2. Read your textbook even when you do not expect to be tested.
3. Rewrite your new class notes each week.

Online Resources

Although Wikipedia or Theopedia can be helpful places to begin research, web sites typically should not be cited in academic research. They may be consulted for a survey of the subject and to lead you to credible primary and secondary sources. However, they cannot be trusted for accuracy since they are not subject to academic peer-review. Your goal is to find academic, peer-reviewed articles and published resources, whether they are accessed online or in print.

Plagiarism is:

- borrowing another person’s ideas without citing the work. If information can be found in five or more sources, it is considered common knowledge and does not need to be cited. When in doubt, cite.
- borrowing another person’s phrases or sentences without quoting the work.
- resubmitting work you completed for another class. Even if you wrote the original paper, it is cheating to submit the work a second time.

Personal Note: Please join us in asking God to guide our thoughts as we seek to grow in our knowledge and love for Him through the study of Him, His Word, and His creation.

Topics & Reading Schedule

E 4 = Erickson chapter 4 H = Harwood

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due via BlackBoard by Start of Class
Aug. 24	Introductions, Syllabus, & Prolegomena	E 1–3	
Aug. 31	Theological Method; Discussion of <i>In Defense of Doctrine</i>	Putman	Putman Book Review Due; Essay 1: “How can theology be systematic and biblical?”
Sept. 7	<i>Labor Day – No Class</i>		

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due via BlackBoard by Start of Class
Sept. 14	Contextualizing Theology; Revelation: General & Special	E 4, 6–7	Submit Theologian & Doctrine for Paper; General Revelation Assignment Due
Sept. 21	Revelation: The Canon & Bible Translation	E 8–10; Watch Brunn Pres.: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxnIP2981iU	Reference Summary Due; Essay 2: “Which Bible translation(s) do I use and why?” (First person language is permitted in this essay.)
Sept. 28	God: Existence, Attributes, Knowability	E 11–13	Bibliography Due; Essay 3: “Are we like or unlike God?”
Oct. 5	God: Trinity & Creation	E 14, 16, 21	Essay 4: “Gen 1. Days or ages? Does it matter?”
Oct. 12	God: Providence, Evil & Suffering, Angels	E 15, 17–19; Read Craig/Helm article: http://baptistcenter.net/journals/JBTM_11-1_Spring_2014.pdf#page=65	Article 1 Summary Due; Essay 5: “Does God cause events, allow events, or both?”
Oct. 19	<i>Fall Break – No Class</i>		
Oct. 26	<i>Professor Out – No Class</i>		

Date	Topic	Reading Due	Assignments Due via BlackBoard by Start of Class
Nov. 2	Man: <i>Imago Dei</i> , Constitution, Gender, Sin, Homosexuality	E 20, 22–28; H 1–12	Article 2 Summary Due; Essay 6: “What does it mean to be made in the image of God?” Essay 7: “Can one be both gay and a Christian?”
Nov. 9	Guilt of Adam’s Sin; Discussion of <i>The Spiritual Condition of Infants</i>	H 13–end	Essay 8: “Are you guilty before God because of Adam’s sin or yours?” Harwood Book Review Due
Nov. 16	<i>ETS – No Class</i>		
Nov. 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break–No Class</i>		
Nov. 30	Christology: Humanity, Virgin Birth	E 30, 32, 34	Research Paper Due; Essay 9: “Could Jesus have sinned?”
Dec. 7	Christology: Divinity, Union	E 31, 33	Essay 10: “Was Jesus omniscient during His earthly ministry?”
Dec. 14 at 9:00 AM	Final Exam		

Guidelines for the Research Paper

You will submit a 10–12 page (plus bibliography), double-spaced research paper through **the online classroom**. You may choose the theologian and doctrine from the list below. The paper is to be a summary and critique of a selected theologian and doctrine. Please properly cite your sources and follow the current edition of Turabian's *A Manual for Writers* for the paper's form (footnotes) and style. The grade will be comprised of these assignments:

1. **Choose a theologian and doctrine.** Select one theologian and one corresponding doctrine from the list below. **Submit online. 5 points.**

Choice of Theologians and Doctrines for the Research Paper

Tertullian (ca. 160–235) - sufficiency of Scripture, Trinity
Basil of Caesarea (ca. 330–79) - Trinity
Augustine (354–430) - revelation, Trinity, creation, man, sin
Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109) - existence of God
Thomas Aquinas (1224–74) - natural theology, existence of God, impact of sin on man
Martin Luther (1483–1546) - authority of Scripture
John Calvin (1509–64) - revelation, God, man
Jonathan Edwards (1703–58) - God, original sin
Charles Hodge (1797–1878) - creation
Paul Tillich (1886–1965) - God
Karl Barth (1886–1968) - revelation
C. S. Lewis (1898–1963) - theodicy
Karl Rahner (1904–84) - Trinity
Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) - theodicy
Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) (b. 1927) - creation
Wolfhart Pannenberg (1928–2014) - revelation
Clark Pinnock (1937–2010) - inerrancy, God
James H. Cone (b. 1938) - theological method, God

2. **Reference Summary.** Get a working knowledge of your theologian and topic. Consult at least three different types of **in-print** reference works to learn about your topic. The different types of published reference works include: theological dictionaries, theological encyclopedias, historical or systematic theologies (not including your textbooks), and works of church history. After you have read the three sections or chapters about your topic, write a two-page, double-spaced summary of what you learned about the topic. No footnotes are necessary for this assignment. Mention the major issues, significant personalities, controversies (with dates and places), writings, and theological questions (“Why does this matter?”) involved in your topic. List your sources on page three of your summary. See syllabus for due date. **15 points.**

3. **Bibliography.** Find at least four primary sources (written *by* the theologian) and six secondary sources (written *about* the theologian). Four of those ten sources must be

from a peer-reviewed academic journal (*JETS* not *Christianity Today*). The secondary sources must have been published in the last 25 years. **Tips:** Remember to use ATLA to find articles; see NOBTS librarians for help; check syllabus for due date; use Turabian format. **Submit online. 10 points.**

4. Two Article Summaries. Find and read two articles (6-pg. min. each) from a peer-reviewed academic journal from the last 25 years on your topic. Then, write a one-page, single-spaced summary for each article. You can find these articles through the ATLA database. Please provide bibliographic information. **Submit online. 10 points each.**

5. Research Paper. The paper must have the following **distinct sections:**

- a. 2–3 pages of **biography** on your theologian. Be sure to include why he was remembered as a notable theologian. What were his most important works? Where did he teach or pastor?
- b. 4–6 pages of **summary**. Be sure to include his theological perspective (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Baptist, etc.) as you summarize his understanding of the doctrine. Provide examples from primary sources and interact with secondary sources.
- c. 3–4 pages of **critique**. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the views that you summarized? Be sure to interact with secondary sources at this point.

Tips for Writing a Research Paper

- **Begin early.** Do a little bit of work each week. Set an early, “false” deadline to finish your paper. That gives you time to follow the next suggestion. Work to obtain books weeks in advance of needing them in case the library does not own them. Books can sometimes be borrowed from other libraries; others may be available digitally.
- **Write and rewrite.** The key to good writing is rewriting. Words rarely come out right the first time. All of us need to put a draft away for a couple of days and return to it with “fresh eyes.” Enlist a reader who will provide constructive feedback. Rewriting will improve your work.

Rubric for Grading Theology Research Papers

The Research Paper will be graded as follows (50 points possible):

Content, 25 points

Up to 25 pts. will be awarded for the three sections as described above.

- 2–3 pages of **biography** on your theologian
- 4–6 pages to **summarize** his view of the doctrine, drawing from primary sources
- 3–4 pages of **critical reflection** on his view of the doctrine, noting the strengths and weaknesses of the theologian’s view, interacting with secondary sources.
 - “A” quality work (23–25 points) - the paper presents a thorough biography, a clear summary of his view on the selected doctrine, and an astute theological critique
 - “B” quality work (20–22 points)
 - “C” quality work (18–19 points) - the paper lacks a thorough biography, clear doctrinal summary, and/or significant theological critique

Selection and use of sources, 10 points

Up to 10 points will be awarded for the ten sources which are relevant to the topic, meet the requirements for number and type of sources (4 primary and 6 secondary; at least 4 sources from peer-reviewed academic journals), and are used and cited properly.

Form, 5 points

Up to 5 pts. will be awarded for conformity to Turabian format for title page, footnotes, and the works cited page.

- “A” quality work (5)
- “B” quality work (4)
- “C” quality work (3)

Style and Grammar, 10 points

- style - refers to the ability to construct clear and meaningful sentences and paragraphs
- grammar - proper use of English, including spelling, punctuation, and syntax
 - “A” quality work (9–10)
 - “B” quality work (8)
 - “C” quality work (7)

TOTAL...../50 pts.

See syllabus for due date of the research paper. Because the paper will be collected and graded in stages, the final research paper will be worth only 50 points.

Rubric for Grading Book Reviews in Theology I

	10	8	6	4	2
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4-5 pgs in length •provides a robust explanation and critique of author's thesis •all details accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3 1/2 pgs in length •acceptable explanation and critique of author's thesis •minimal inaccuracies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3 pages in length •provides some explanation and critique of author's thesis •some inaccurate details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2 pages in length •provides little explanation and critique of author's thesis •many inaccurate details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<2 pages in length •neither explains nor critiques the author's thesis •no accurate details
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •addresses topic directly •highly organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •addresses topic directly •organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •addresses topic •somewhat organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •somewhat addresses topic •highly unorganized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •wanders significantly from the topic •no organized structure
Logical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •superior examples of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •examples of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •acceptable support of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •minimal support of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •no logical support of the topic
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •exceptionally clear meaning to the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •clear meaning to the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •somewhat clear meaning to the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •unclear meaning to the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •incoherent for the reader
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •no visible or significant errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •errors do not disturb the reading process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •errors sometimes disturb the reading process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •errors often disturb the reading process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •errors make reading difficult

Theology I – Rubric for Assessing Reflective Essays					
	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.5	0
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nails the topic ◆ All details accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stays on topic ◆ Minimal inaccuracies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some deviation from topic ◆ Some inaccurate details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deviates from topic ◆ Major inaccurate details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deviates significantly from topic ◆ No accurate details
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Highly organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Somewhat organized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unorganized structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No discernable structure
Logical Support Is evidence presented to support the claim(s)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Superior logical support of topic or claim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Logical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Acceptable logical support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Minimal support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No logical support
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Exceptionally clear meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Clear meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Somewhat clear meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Unclear meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Incoherent
Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1 error 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 2 different errors (rather than two occurrences of the same error) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 3-4 different errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 5 or more errors

Supplementary Bibliography

Theological Method

Clark, David K. *To Know and Love God: Method for Theology*. In *Foundations of Evangelical Theology*, ed. John S. Feinberg. Wheaton: Crossway, 2003.

Yarnell, Malcolm. *The Formation of Christian Doctrine*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2007.

Doctrine of Revelation

Brunn, Dave. *One Bible, Many Versions: Are All Translations Created Equal?* Downers Grove: IVP, 2013.

Dockery, David. *Christian Scripture: An Evangelical Perspective on Inspiration, Authority and Interpretation*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2004.

Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Henry, Carl F. H. *God, Revelation and Authority*. 6 Vols. Wheaton: Crossway, 1999.

McDonald, Lee Martin. *Formation of the Bible: The Story of the Church's Canon*. Peabody, MA: Hendricksen, 2012.

Wright, N. T. *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2011.

Doctrine of God

Erickson, Millard J. *What Does God Know and When Does He Know It?: The Current Controversy over Divine Foreknowledge*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Hanson, R. P. C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

Huffman, Douglas, ed. *God Under Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Doctrine of God: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Prothero, Stephen. *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World*. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.

Sanders, Fred. *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2010.

Tiessen, Terrance. *Providence & Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?* Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000.

Wise, Kurt. *Faith, Form, and Time: What the Bible Teaches and Science Confirms about Creation and the Age of the Universe.* Nashville: B&H, 2002.

Doctrine of Man

Blocher, Henri. *Original Sin: Illuminating the Riddle.* New Studies in Biblical Theology 5. Edited by D. A. Carson. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Hoekema, Anthony. *Created in God's Image.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Piper, John and Wayne Grudem, ed. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.* Wheaton: Crossway, 1991.

Plantinga, Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Smith, David L. *With Willful Intent: A Theology of Sin.* Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2003.

Doctrine of Christ (The Person of Christ)

Bock, Darrell. *Studying the Historical Jesus.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Grillmeier, Aloys. *Christ in Christian Tradition.* 2 Vol. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1988.

Need, Stephen W. *Truly Divine and Truly Human: The Story of Christ and the Seven Ecumenical Councils.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Stott, John. *The Incomparable Christ.* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.

Biblical Theologies

Childs, Brevard S. *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments: Theological Reflection on the Christian Bible.* Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible.* Downers Grove: IVP, 1991.

Scobie, Charles H. H. *The Ways of our God: An Approach to Biblical Theology.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Historical Theologies

Garrett, James Leo, Jr. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, & Evangelical*. 2 Vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Systematic Theologies

Akin, Daniel, ed. *A Theology for the Church*, rev. ed. Nashville: B&H, 2014.

Dagg, J. L. *A Manual of Theology*. First published 1857. Harrisonburg, VA: Gano, 1990.

Enns, Paul. *The Moody Handbook of Theology*. Revised. Chicago: Moody, 2008.

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Geisler, Norman. *Systematic Theology: In One Volume*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2011.

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Lewis, Gordon and Bruce Demarest. *Integrative Theology*. 3 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.

Swindoll, Charles R. and Roy B. Zuck, ed. *Understanding Christian Theology*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003.

Thorsen, Don. *An Exploration of Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Theological Dictionaries

Elwell, Walter, ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J., ed. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.

Other Biblical-Theological Resources

Beale, G. K. and D. A. Carson, ed. *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Mullins, E. Y. *The Axioms of Religion*. Edited by C. Douglas Weaver. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2010.