

GW Philosophy Department Presents the 2013 Goutman Lecture

John Stuhr

Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and
American Studies and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at
Emory University

Pragmatism about God, Death, and the Absurd

This lecture addresses a cluster of unavoidable questions that face everyone and that have troubled thinkers across the history of philosophy: Is life worth living? If so, why? Must human beings have a faith in an omnipotent, omniscient being to render life meaningful? Is belief in God ultimately pragmatic, or does it run counter to a robust pragmatism and an honest naturalism? In responding to these questions, John Stuhr weaves together themes from American pragmatism, French existentialism, poetry, and pop music.

Educated at Carleton College and Vanderbilt University, **John Stuhr** taught at Vanderbilt, Penn State, the University of Oregon, and Whitman College, and held visiting appointments in Australia, France, and Russia, before arriving at Emory. His main interests lie in ethics, social and political philosophy, and contemporary cultures, topics he finds illuminated by insights from pragmatism and recent European philosophy. He is the editor of a philosophy journal and two book series, the author or editor of a dozen books, including, most recently, *Pragmatism, Postmodernism and the Future of Philosophy* and *100 Years of Pragmatism*, and he has won several teaching awards.

Friday, April 26th
4:30pm

Phillips Hall
Room B152
801 22nd St, NW
Washington, DC
20052