



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy

welcomes

Paul Studtmann

Davidson College

“Empiricism and the Problem of Metaphysics”

“If there is one utterly inescapable problem for the metaphysician, it is this: is metaphysics itself a theoretically legitimate discipline? Is it, in other words, capable of a systematic and well-confirmed set of theoretical results? And if not, why not? From its inception, metaphysics has found itself exercised by the nagging worry that its own inquiries might reveal it to be a subject without an object, or a mode of inquiry without a method. Already in Plato's discussion of the battle between the Gods and Giants we have such concerns voiced. Since then, no era of its history has spared metaphysics some rehearsal of this question. Some metaphysicians have returned positive verdicts regarding the legitimacy of their own activities; others have been less sanguine. In either attitude, however, we find some need to address one and the same question. Indeed, so fundamental and inescapable is this self-regarding question that we may safely call it the problem of metaphysics.”

**Tuesday,
March 31st
4:30 p.m.**

**Philosophy
Library
Tribble Hall B316**

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can be made.

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