

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture By

Dr. Alan Udoff

*From Worldless Silence To Engaged Speech:
How Jean Améry's Auschwitz Book Came To Be*



"In 1964, when the great Auschwitz-trial in Frankfurt began, I wrote the first essay in connection with my experiences in the Third Reich, after twenty years of silence. . . . But when the latter work was finished, I felt that it would have been impossible to let the matter stand with that. Auschwitz. After all, how had I arrived at that place?" Thus Améry begins the Preface to *At the Mind's Limits* (Indiana University Press, 1980; German original 1977).

Dr. Udoff's talk will examine the relationship between evil as the experience of worldless silence and testimony as a return to a world shared with others in Améry's attempts to come to terms with his fate at the hands of the Nazis. He focuses on what Améry speaks of as the "hesitation" in passing from silence to speech.

Dr. Alan Udoff was born in 1943 in Brooklyn, NY, has an M.A. in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America and was a Louis L. Kaplan Professor of Philosophy at Baltimore Hebrew University from 1983-1999. He currently holds a joint professorship in the Departments of Philosophy and Religious Studies at St. Francis College.

The principal areas of his research and writing are in the histories of philosophy and Jewish thought, literary theory, and the Holocaust. He has written on Kafka, Strauss, Buber, Rosenzweig, Celan, the Holocaust, and various aspects of Jewish thought. He is currently at work on a book-length commentary on Jean Améry's *At the Mind's Limits*.

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 in EESAT 110

Dr. Udoff will also be giving a lecture "The Sanctification of Life: Spiritual Resistance in the Holocaust" on Thursday, March 10, 3:30 in ESSC 255

This lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or

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