

# UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

Department of Philosophy  
and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture by

CLARE  
PALMER



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Thursday, October 23, 7:30 p.m. in EESAT 125

## Madness and Animality in Michel Foucault's *Madness and Civilization*

*Madness and Civilization* is one of Michel Foucault's earliest but most well-known books, and contains his only extended discussion of animality. This lecture begins by outlining the basic thrust of the central arguments of *Madness and Civilization*. It then closely examines different understandings of animality, in relation to madness, discussed by Foucault in the course of the book. Foucault maintains that animality is understood in different ways in different historical eras. Without denying this, Palmer argues that scrutiny of Foucault's own account, and the accounts of animality he describes, indicates one constant—animality, like madness, is always seen as being fundamentally in opposition to reason. She raises a number of difficulties with the animality/reason dichotomy that Foucault ultimately seems to endorse, both in terms of the principle of the dichotomy itself, and in terms of the human-animal power relations that may flow from it.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266  
or [philosophy@unt.edu](mailto:philosophy@unt.edu).