DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

DASEINSANALYSIS

May 12 - June 3, 2014
Instructor: Roger Brooke, Ph.D., ABPP
9.00 - 12.15 in 642 College Hall

Goals and objectives

Daseinsanalysis, or "Analysis of Existence," began with the work of Sigmund Freud's student and friend, Ludwig Binswanger (1881-1966), but was more clearly and systematically described by Medard Boss (1903-1990). As a young man Boss had been a patient of Freud's, and he attended the seminars of C. G. Jung in the 1940s. He was clearly deeply influenced by both Freud and Jung, and credits Jung for being more descriptively phenomenological than was Freud. He also credits Karen Horney for first breaking open Freud's theoretical reductionism to quasi-biology and for recognizing the historical and cultural embeddedness of human psychological suffering and of our defensive styles.

It was, however, Martin Heidegger (1889-1976) whose work provided Boss with an anthropology—a philosophical analysis of the structure of existence as Dasein—that enabled Boss to develop and clarify his psychiatric and psychotherapeutic thinking. He believed that it was only this anthropology that could consistently and adequately account for the phenomena he dealt with daily in psychotherapy. It provided Boss with a rigorous conceptual ground according to which he could interpret the phenomena described by Freud and Jung—phenomena both revealed and awkwardly concealed through terms as wide ranging as psyche, ego, defense mechanisms, repression, transference, projection, instinct, and archetypes—and even psychotherapy. In fact, a Daseinsanalytic analysis of being human calls for a fundamental refiguring of our understanding of what we are called to do as psychotherapists.
A number of psychiatrists and psychologists traveled to Boss for supervision and analysis. Boss and Condrau founded the Swiss Society for Daseinsanalysis in 1970, from which there have been several other institutional developments. Boss’s students included Paul Stern, Stern’s patient and student, Erik Craig, whose writings are in my view the best in the field, and my former mentor, Professor, Dreyer Kruger, of Rhodes University, South Africa. I also wish to mention my former colleague, Leslie Todres, whose work was deeply and thoroughly Daseinsanalytic.

In 2004 Duquesne University’s Simon Silverman Phenomenology Center held its annual symposium on Daseinsanalysis.

The first general goal of the course is that you will have a deeper understanding of the assumptions and theoretical arguments of that style of existential phenomenological analysis originally developed by the psychiatrist, Medard Boss, and carried forward by writers such as Erik Craig. The second general goal is that you find your clinical and therapeutic skills enhanced.

In terms of specific objectives, by the end of the course you can expect:
• To be able to describe the central assertions and arguments of the existential phenomenological perspective in clinical assessment and psychotherapy;
• To understand the existential phenomenological foundations that call for elementary, everyday psychotherapeutic moves, such as asking the patient to say more about it, or when the problem began, or what was happening at that time;
• To be able to describe the phenomenology of phenomena such as transference, repetition compulsion, psychosomatics, and the unconscious;
• To be able to work phenomenologically with patients who present dreams.

We shall divide each day's seminar into three sections: a discussion of reading and conceptual issues, then a case discussion, then a dream analysis.

Evaluation

You will present case material and dreams for discussion in each class. You are also expected to have read the required readings for each day's seminar. 20% of the grade will be for your class participation. The other 80% will be for a paper you will write, to be
completed before the weekend following the completion of the course (Friday June 6, 4 pm.). Your paper should integrate Daseinsanalytic theory and praxis. You may write up an aspect of a case of yours, or present a dream interpretation, and there are other options. Please discuss your proposed paper with me. Regarding the question of length: as long as is required for your argument or discussion.

Reading

Readings will be selected partly according to your needs and interests as as these develop through the course. However, readings will be drawn primarily from the following sources:


