

# On Ethics



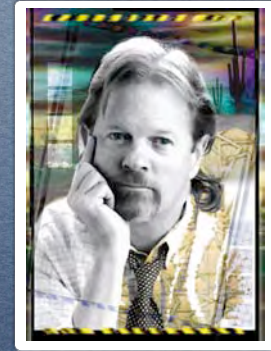
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## Today's Agenda

- definitions
- licensing law
- ethics & morals: polarized
- ethics & morals: integrated
- personal - interpersonal - institutional -  
transpersonal ethics

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## Ethics

- study of the general nature of morals and of specific moral choices made by the individual in relationship with others
- standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession
- any set of moral principles or values; fitness; propriety

-- (Am. Heritage, p.450)

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## Morals

- concerned with the judgment of goodness or badness of human action and character; discerning good & evil
- arising from conscience
- measured by prevailing standards of rectitude

-- (Am. Heritage, p. 852)

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## Nietzsche



- "morality is the best of all devices for leading mankind by the nose"

-- Maureen Dowd, NY-Times, 3/29/04, AZ Daily Star, p. B4

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## Ethics vs Morals

- ethics approaches behavioral from a philosophical standpoint, stressing more objectively defined but essentially idealized standards of right and wrong
- moral pertains to personal behavior (especially sexual)

-- (Am. Heritage, p. 852)

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## Sin

- a deliberate transgression of a religious or moral law
- a condition of estrangement from God as a result of breaking His law

--(Am. Heritage, p. 1207)

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## Sin

- "to miss the mark" in the original Aramaic, an archery term
- "to go too far in one direction"

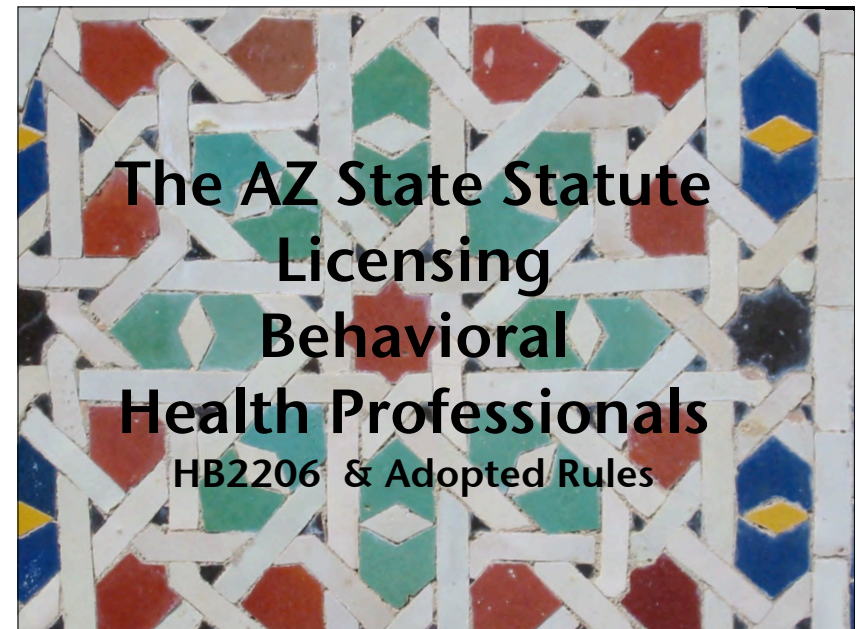


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## Good & Bad

- good: having positive or desirable qualities (Am. Heritage, p. 567)
- bad: inferior, poor, evil, naughty, disagreeable, unpleasant, disturbing, defective, faulty, (Am. Heritage, p. 98)

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## Sections in the Law

- defines words, the Board, direct supervision & clinical supervision
- curriculum of study by discipline
- standards of practice: consent for treatment, treatment plan, client record, financial & billing, confidentiality
- unprofessional conduct and disciplinary processes

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## Treatment Plan

- work jointly: describe services
- integrated, individualized, written
- diagnosis, assessment
- needs, abilities, circumstances, resources

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## TP Elements

- treatment goals
- treatment methods
- review date
- discharge date & aftercare needed
- client signs & dates
- licensee signs & dates



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## TP Reviews

- by the review date, at least annually
- with the client
- insure its effectiveness & aftercare plan
- also signed & dated
- provide explanations if requested
- treatment linked to plan

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## Clinical Supervisor Required Training

- roles and responsibilities of a clinical supervisor
- skill sets: in providing oversight & guidance in diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment of clients
- conceptual knowledge of supervision methods and techniques

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## CS More Required

- evaluate supervisee:
  - role
  - performance
  - capacity to conceptualize and implement clinical assessment and treatment processes



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## The Ethical-Moral



## Polarization

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## The Two Poles

ABSOLUTIST	RELATIVIST
lists of right and wrong	all things are relative
dogmatic	no boundaries
theocracy	anarchy

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## The Two Poles

ABSOLUTIST	RELATIVIST
dictating & punishing behavior	allowing all behavior
we have the Truth	the truth is relative
judgmental	judgmental phobic

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## The Two Poles

ABSOLUTIST	RELATIVIST
feeling of certainty	feeling of tolerance
the vertical: causes come from above us	the horizontal: causes are all equal

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## The Two Poles

ABSOLUTIST	RELATIVIST
black & white	all gray
compliant	rebellious
blaming others	blaming no one

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## The Two Poles

ABSOLUTIST	RELATIVIST
the winning athlete	everyone gets a trophy
has moral force but does not accord with the reality we see	pragmatic but lacks moral force

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# The Ethical-Moral



# Integration

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# The Three Points

on the  
Spectrum of Integration



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## The Three Points

ABSOLUTIST	MINDFUL	RELATIVIST
lists of right and wrong	awareness, choice, consequence	all things are relative
dogmatic	boundaries permeable & impermeable	no boundaries
theocracy	democracy	anarchy

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## The Three Points

ABSOLUTIST	MINDFUL	RELATIVIST
dictating & punishing behavior	allowing some, punishing other	allowing all behavior
we have the Truth	the Truth is absolute and relative	the truth is relative
judgmental	discriminating	judgmental phobic

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## The Three Points

ABSOLUTIST	MINDFUL	RELATIVIST
feeling of certainty	capacity to be certain and tolerate uncertainty	feeling of tolerance
dogmatic	experience, dialogue, attention	no boundaries
the vertical: causes happen above us	vertical and horizontal	the horizontal: causes are all equal

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## The Three Points

ABSOLUTIST	MINDFUL	RELATIVIST
black & white	a continuum	all gray
compliant	case-by-case decisions	rebellious
blaming others	accepting responsibility	blaming no one

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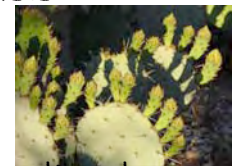
## The Three Points

ABSOLUTIST	MINDFUL	RELATIVIST
the winning athlete	the specific effort	everyone gets a trophy
has moral force but does not accord with reality we see	has moral force and accords with reality we see	pragmatic but lacks moral force

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## Personal Therapeutic Ethics

- a hierarchy of ethical effort exists
- honesty is a method
- foolish sincerity exists
- reflect on the continuum of 'good' and 'bad' actions
- conscience vs. brutalizing superego



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## Personal Therapeutic Ethics

- *wisdom vs. knowledge*
- *'i am doing it to myself' vs. excuses*
- *your personality & countertransference*
- *know your own motive*
- *moral intelligence\*: differentiating right from wrong as defined by universal principles*

\*Lennick, D. & Kiel, F. (2005) Moral Intelligence. New York: Wharton School Publishing.

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## Interpersonal Therapeutic Ethics

- *listen for your blaming others*
- *cultivate interpersonal awareness*
- *do no harm*
- *dual roles and self disclosure*
- *giving & helping can be destructive*
- *fixed morality vs client response*



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## Institutional Therapeutic Ethics

- *discuss, delineate systemic failures and successes locally; examples*
- *study the continuum of ethical transgressions*
- *institutional denial of experience*

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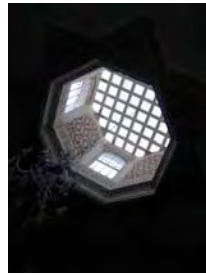
## Institutional Therapeutic Ethics

- *a salty acid eye on institutionalized ethical systems*
- *methods of accountability and their impact on the mission*
- *formal vs informal ethics*



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## Transpersonal Therapeutic Ethics



- 'beyond the person'
- 'sense of verticality'
- a religious or spiritual condemnation of unsaved infidels versus one's actual experience of the infidel
- judgment day: the future, or here-now?

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## Transpersonal Therapeutic Ethics



- Rabia: 'Lord, if I fear hell, send me to hell, and if I long for heaven, deny me heaven'
- Anne Lamont:
  - 'help me help me help me!'
  - 'thank you thank you thank you!'

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## Therapeutic Ethics in Action

- your talk: skills & failures
- on-going clinical supervision
- licensing law AND the adopted rules
- codes of ethics: by type & institution
- 'busted professionals'

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## References



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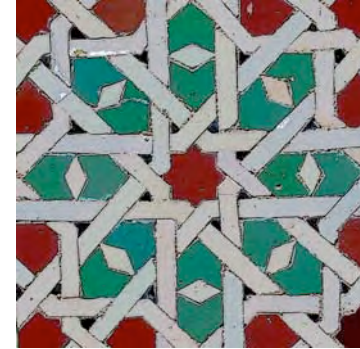
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## On Ethics



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