



Ethics Seminar Year I Winter 2020-2021
Instructors: Susan Kattlove, MD and Stephanie Schechter, PsyD
([Electronic Reading Folder linked here.](#))

This course is designed to help us think and talk about the ethical dilemmas we face every day in our clinical work and in our analytic institutes. We will explore the competing tensions around prioritizing the needs of our patients, while acknowledging that our own needs inevitably play a role in every treatment. The course is intended to help participants grapple with experience-near clinical situation in which there are no clear “right” or “wrong” solutions, but rather a myriad of competing ethical principles.

This course is by no means an exhaustive survey of ethical dilemmas that will arise in the course of a career, but we hope it can serve as a foundation for thinking about clinical ethics, as well as some of the dilemmas endemic to psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic training. We hope to create a safe environment in which we can openly explore a range of topics, some of which you have likely considered before throughout your training and some of which are rarely, if ever, discussed. The readings and the use of vignettes are intended to spark your thinking and exploration of dilemmas you may or may not have encountered so far in your clinical work.

Week 1 –December 3: Introduction: How do we think about ethics?

Reading:

Ackerman, S. (2020). Impossible Ethics, *JAPA* 68(4):561-582. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

Sample vignette

Suggested Reading:

APsaA Ethics Codes

Week 2 – December 10: Confidentiality

Reading:

Lear, J. (2003). Confidentiality as a virtue. In Levin, C., Furlong, A. & O’Neil, M.K. (Eds.), *Confidentiality: Ethical perspectives and clinical dilemmas* (Chapter 1, pp. 4-17). Hillsdale, NJ: The Analytic Press. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bpsi.org].

Optional Reading:

Ackerman, S. (2018). (How) can we write about our patients? *JAPA*, 66(1): 59-81. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bps.org].

Week 3 – December 17: Referrals and Dual Relationships**Reading:**

Epstein, R.S. (1994). Whom should a psychotherapist treat? Problems of patient selection when a dual relationship exists. In *Keeping boundaries: Maintaining safety and integrity in the psychotherapeutic process* (Chapter 7, pp. 127-143). Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Press. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bps.org].

Week 4 – January 7: Ethical “Misdemeanors”**Reading:**

Slochower, J. (2003). The analyst’s secret delinquencies. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13(4): 451-469. [PEP Web Link](#)

Week 5– January 14: Erotic Countertransference**Reading:**

Gabbard, G. (1994). Sexual excitement and countertransference love in the analyst. *JAPA* 42:1083-1106. [PEP Web Link](#)

NO CLASS JANUARY 21- ACADEMIC LECTURE**Week 6 – January 28: Sexual Boundaries/ Vulnerabilities of the Analyst****Reading:**

Levine, H.B. (2010) Sexual Boundary Violations: A Psychoanalytic Perspective. *Brit. J. Psychother.* (1): 50-63. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested Reading:

Gutheil, Thomas and Brodsky, Archie, *Preventing Boundary Violations in Clinical Practice* (chapter 10, “Vulnerabilities” pp. 219-240) New York: The Guilford Press. 2008. [Download from the [Reading folder](#) or request from library@bps.org].

Week 7 – February 4: Supervision and Boundaries within Psychoanalytic Institutes**Reading:**

Bosworth, H., Aizaga, K. & Cabaniss, D.L. (2009). The training analyst: Analyst, teacher, mentor. *JAPA*, 57(3): 663-675. [PEP Web Link](#)

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 11: APsaA MEETINGS

Week 8 – February 18: Illness in the Analyst and Professional Wills

Reading:

Fajardo, B. (2001). Life-threatening illness in the analyst. *JAPA*, 49(2), 569-586. [PEP Web Link](#)
Professional Will Templates