

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

-- SYNCHRONOUS VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION ONLY --

Class meets on Thursdays,
4:00 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Week 1: Thursday, August 26, 2021

Discussion:

- Review Syllabus; plan for the semester.
- Textbooks and outside readings.
- Professional Identity. Who are we, and who represents our interests? CAMFT, AAMFT, ACA, IAMFC, etc. The role of professional societies in our development as a profession.
- The code set. Where can we find the laws?
- Realistic view of the profession, where we are going from here.
- MFT, LMFT, LPCC? What gives with the alphabet soup?

For next meeting:

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). TPM X 2**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 1 (pages 2 - 22) - Values as Context for Therapy
Chapter 2 (pages 23 - 39) - Professional Acculturation
- Atkins et al. Chapter 2A (pages 28 - 34) - "Scope of Practice," 2B (pages 35 - 39) - "Coaching v. Therapy," and 2C (pages 40 - 43) - "Sometimes It's What You Don't Say." Chapter 9A thru C (pages 198 - 214) - Dual Relationships and Unlawful/Unethical Dual Relationships

- **Assignment:** Acquire a DIGITAL copy of **PART I** of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) "Code of Ethics." You'll find this at <http://camft.org>. On the home page, in the extreme upper left corner, press "About Us," and scroll past the "How to File and Ethical Complaint" to "CAMFT Code of Ethics." You'll see a little blue printer icon, which will download the 16-page document onto your computer and keep it handy. We are only dealing with **PART I: The Standards**. **TAKE A CURSORY LOOK AT SECTIONS:** 1) Responsibility to

Patients, 2) Confidentiality, 3) Informed consent and Disclosure, 4) Dual/Multiple Relationships, 5) Professional competence and integrity, 6) Telehealth, 7) Supervisor, Supervisee, Educator, and Student responsibilities, 8) Responsibility to Colleagues, 9) Responsibility to the Profession, 10) Responsibility to the Legal System, and 13) Advertising.

- **Assignment:** Spend time looking at the CAMFT web site and be prepared to discuss the services and features available from CAMFT's website.

Week 2: Thursday, September 2, 2021

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 1 (pages 2 - 22) - Values as Context for Therapy
Chapter 2 (pages 23 - 39) - Professional Acculturation
- Atkins et al. Chapter 2A (pages 28 - 34) - "Scope of Practice," 2B (pages 35 - 39) - "Coaching v. Therapy," and 2C (pages 40 - 43) - "Sometimes It's What You Don't Say." Chapter 9A thru C (pages 198 - 214) - Dual Relationships and Unlawful/Unethical Dual Relationships
- **PART I** of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) "Code of Ethics," sections: 1) Responsibility to Patients, 2) Confidentiality, 3) Informed consent and Disclosure, 4) Dual/Multiple Relationships, 5) Professional competence and integrity, 6) Telehealth, 7) Supervisor, Supervisee, Educator, and Student responsibilities, 8) Responsibility to Colleagues, 9) Responsibility to the Profession, 10) Responsibility to the Legal System, 11) Responsibility to Research Participants, 12) Financial Arrangements, and 13) Advertising.
- "Therapy Never Includes Sexual Behaviors"
- Beginning discussion of psychotherapist-patient privilege

For next meeting:

• Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). **TPM**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 3 (pages 42 - 70) - Promoting Ethical Practice
- Atkins et al. Chapter 5A (pages 92 - 101) D & E (pages 108 - 120) - Confidentiality Issues; Chapter 7A thru D (pages 145 - 171) - Dangerous Patients; Chapter 8A thru E (pages 172 - 191) - The Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege
- **Assignment:** Acquire hard copy of "Therapy Never Includes Sexual Behaviors" (2021) from the Board of Behavioral Sciences. There are two (2) versions of this document, a "plain" and a "fancy." I have formatted the plain one for you at: <http://hdansmith.com/TNISB-plain2019.pdf> . **Have your hard copy with you at our next class meeting . . . read. The law requires you to have this on hand when your practice!** The "fancy" version is very colorful and nicely done, but it is an ink cartridge killer, hence the plain one. You may view and/or download the "fancy" brochure at: <https://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/proftherapy.pdf> .

GO ON TO THE TOP OF THE NEXT PAGE, PLEASE.

- **Assignment:** E-mail to me at dans@mail.fresnostate.edu (by attachment; no virus, please) your summary of "Therapy Never Includes Sexual Behaviors." Please specifically comment on the definitions of sexual misconduct and the enforcement procedures. This will also serve as a check to see if you are reading the syllabus.

Week 3: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 3 (pages 42 - 70) - Promoting Ethical Practice
- Atkins et al. Chapter 5A (pages 92 - 101) D & E (pages 108 - 120) - Confidentiality Issues; Chapter 7A thru D (pages 145 - 171) - Dangerous Patients; Chapter 8A thru E (pages 172 - 191) – The Psychotherapist-Patient Privilege
- *VITALY TARASOFF v. REGENTS OF UNIV. OF CA., ET AL.* (1976).
- Dan's famous "Colorado Dangerous Patient" movie!
- Dan's famous "Poop-on-the-Door Dangerous Patient" movie!
- The elements of privileged communication. HUGE issue in our business.
- **The subpoena.**

For next meeting:

• Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). **TPM X 2**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 4 (pages 71 - 88) - Unique Ethical Considerations 1
Chapter 8 (pages 142 - 169) - Contemporary Ethical Issues 2
- Atkins et al. Chapter 10A thru C (pages 215 - 227) - Telehealth; Chapter 14B (pages 298 - 306) - Revisiting Informed Consent
- **Assignment; Scavenger Hunt:** Find two (2) on-line therapists; jot down their URL so that we can look at them in class next time. Take some notes and be ready to discuss their sites, the set-up as best you can determine. Read and be ready to discuss BBS position on "on line therapy" from their web site. I'm not talking about a therapist who happens to be on line due to COVID, but one whose platform is only on-line.
- **Go to <https://www.bbs.ca.gov>** and click on "Licensees" at the top, then press the box with "General Info and Requirements" and then "Telehealth." From there, press "Comprehensive Requirements and Applicable laws." Read Business and Professions Code §2290.5.

Week 4: Thursday, September 16, 2021

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 4 (pages 71 - 88) - Unique Ethical Considerations 1
Chapter 8 (pages 142 - 169) - Contemporary Ethical Issues 2
- Atkins et al. Chapter 10A thru C (pages 215 - 227) - Telehealth; Chapter 14B (pages 298 - 306) - Revisiting Informed Consent
- Examination of your two favorite (or most outrageous) online psychotherapy web sites from your search per last week's assignment. We'll take a look at them, too.
- Discussion of technology's impact on the profession. You'll probably be counseling on-line in your future ... one never knows. Discussion of online therapy and how it has developed over the past 10 years, review of Dan's favorite web sites where therapists are promoting themselves as online therapists. Taking a look at BBS expectations for online treatment.

For next meeting:

- **EXAM 1 NEXT WEEK.** The exam will be of an "objective nature" and will evaluate the full range of readings and discussion to date in the Wilcoxon et al. text, the Atkins et al. readings, and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) "Code of Ethics - Part I."

The exam will be on line, using Lock Down Browser in Canvas

Week 5: Thursday, September 23, 2021

EXAM 1, as noted above. We'll talk more about psychotherapist-patient privilege for a while before the exam . . .

• Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). *TPM*

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 5 (pages 89 - 104) - Unique Ethical Considerations 2
- Atkins et al. Chapter 12A thru E (pages 248 - 271) - Civil Liability, Disciplinary Actions, and Ethics Complaints

Week 6: Thursday, September 30, 2021

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 5 (pages 89 - 104) - Unique Ethical Considerations 2
- Atkins et al. Chapter 12A thru E (pages 248 - 271) - Civil Liability, Disciplinary Actions, and Ethics Complaints
- Discussion of how the practice of MFT differs from individual therapies; there are many distinctions that feel awkward and pose legal and ethical problems if appropriate principles are not followed or ignored. Unique confidentiality considerations, application of paradoxical procedures, poverty, trauma, and cultural issues. Also, liability issues for MFTs and disciplinary actions, including DUIs (and other consequences of how you live your life).

For next meeting:

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). TPM**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 6 (pages 105 - 119) - Intimate Partner Violence
- Atkins et al. Chapter 4A thru F (pages 58 - 91) - Child and Elder Abuse

Week 7: Thursday, October 7, 2021

- **Discussion:** *This discussion will cover 1/7 of the mandatory child abuse assessment and reporting instruction relegated to this class. We will have a detailed discussion of the law and your responsibilities, who is a mandated reporter, and reporting procedures.*
 - Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 6 (pages 105 - 119) - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Atkins et al. Chapter 4A thru F (pages 58 - 91) - Child and Elder Abuse
- Dan's famous "Child Abuse" movie. **Brace yourself for this one! You'll never be the same after seeing this. Once seen, it can't be un-seen!**
- IPV per your readings.

For next meeting:

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). TPM**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 7 (pages 120 - 141) - Contemporary Ethical Issues 1
- Atkins et al. Chapter 3A and B (pages 49 - 57) - Consent for Treatment of Minors; Chapter 5B and C (pages 102 - 107) - Confidentiality and Minors, Collateral Visitors

Week 8: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Discussion: *This will bring us to 3/7 of the mandatory child abuse assessment and reporting instruction relegated to this class.*

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 7 (pages 120 - 141) - Contemporary Ethical Issues 1
- Atkins et al. Chapter 3A and B (pages 49 - 57) - Consent for Treatment of Minors; Chapter 5B and C (pages 102 - 107) - Confidentiality and Minors, Collateral Visitors
- Diagnosis in family therapy; incompatibility of orientations, Managed Care, etc.

For next meeting:

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). TPM**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 10 (pages 200 - 232) - MFTs in the Legal System
- Atkins et al. Chapter 1A thru C (pages 9 - 27) - Advertising/business cards, fees, Internet, etc.; Chapter 6A thru E (pages 121 - 144) - Patient Records, and Chapter 13A and B (pages 281 - 291) - Therapy Termination

Week 9: Thursday, October 21, 2021

Discussion: *This will bring us to 5/7 of the mandatory child abuse assessment and reporting instruction relegated to this class.*

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 10 (pages 200 - 232) - MFTs in the Legal System
- Atkins et al. Chapter 1A thru C (pages 9 - 27) - Advertising/business cards, fees, Internet, etc.; Chapter 6A thru E (pages 121 - 144) - Patient Records, and Chapter 13A and B (pages 281 - 291) - Therapy Termination
- Dan's famous "Business Cards *Faux Pas*" exercise.
- Liability Insurance: types and necessity for California MFTs.
- Review of Fresno State's liability program through Lloyds of London.
- Problems encountered when you allow your employer (or school) to supply your liability insurance

For next meeting:

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). TPM**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 11 (pages 233 - 261) - Family Law
- Atkins et al. Chapter 11A thru D (pages 228 - 247) - Insurance
- **EXAM 2 NEXT MEETING**. The exam items will come from readings in Wilcoxon et al., the California child abuse and neglect reporting law, and the items from Atkins et al. *Completion of this exam will bring us to 7/7 of the mandatory child abuse assessment and reporting instruction relegated to this class.*

Week 10: Thursday, October 28, 2021

EXAM 2, as noted above. We will use the last hour and a half for this task. *The exam will complete 7/7 of the mandatory child abuse assessment and reporting instruction relegated to this class.*

- **Lecture first, EXAM after the break.** Lots to do tonight; **discussion precedes EXAM 2**. Please have your studying done **BEFORE** you come to class so you can concentrate on the discussion.

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 11 (pages 233 - 261) - Family Law
- Atkins et al. Chapter 11A thru D (pages 228 - 247) - Insurance
- We'll take a look at the insurance billing forms and some procedure codes.
- More on Family law issues. Marriage ("rules of engagement"), Annulment (Catholic v. Secular), Divorce (decrees, child support information, spousal support, treatment considerations where divorce is involved, blended families, etc.), Subpoenas, etc.

For next meeting:

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO ~~TPM~~ FOR CHAPTER 13!

• **Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion).**

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 13 (pages 290 - 308) - Professional Issues: Identity
- Atkins et al. Chapter 15A thru E (pages 311 - 335) - Registered Associate MFTs, Trainees and Supervisors

Week 11: Thursday, November 4, 2021

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 13 (pages 290 - 308) - Professional Issues: Identity
- Atkins et al. Chapter 15A thru E (pages 311 - 335) - Registered Associate MFTs, Trainees and Supervisors
- More on Insurance

For next meeting:

• Textbook Reading Assignments (Check box for completion). *TPM*

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 14 (pages 309 - 328) - Professional Issues: Supervision, Licensure, and Professional Development
- Atkins et al. Chapter 14A (pages 292 - 297) - Tale of Two Supervisees; Chapter 14C (pages 307 - 310) - Ariadne's Thread; Chapter 16A Thru C (pages 336 - 356) - Working in Schools.
If you have no plan or desire to work in schools, you can skip this one. If you do plan or desire to work in schools, these three chapters can be lifesavers. Take my word.

- **Assignment; Scavenger Hunt:** Acquire from the BBS web site (<http://www.bbs.ca.gov>) all the materials needed to register as an Intern. Spend some time exploring the web site and be ready to discuss.
- Examine various BBS forms and procedures.
- MCE (Mandatory Continuing Education) for MFTs.
- MFT consultation, a growing perspective.

Week 12: Thursday, November 11, 2021 – NO CLASS; VETERANS DAY!

Week 13: Thursday, November 18, 2021

"MFT/LPCC Essentials":

BBS rules/regulations for MFT licensure; information on COUN 239 placements and requirements for the field experience.

- *Board of Behavioral Sciences Statutes and Regulations*, Latest Revision.
- Examine various BBS forms and procedures.
- MCE (Mandatory Continuing Education) for MFTs.
- Discussion of various licensure issues; how to get your IR number, questions to ask your supervisor, where you can work, what to expect, etc.

Discussion:

- Wilcoxon et al. Chapter 14 (pages 309 - 328) - Professional Issues: Supervision, Licensure, and Professional Development
- Atkins et al. Chapter 14A (pages 292 - 297) - Tale of Two Supervisees; Chapter 14C (pages 307 - 310) - Ariadne's Thread

Week 14: Thursday, November 25, 2021
No class. THANKSGIVING BREAK!



Week 15: Thursday, December 2, 2021

Discussion: "MFT/PCC Essentials" COUN 239, hours, supervision, etc.

Tonight, we will participate in a Webinar with Cathy Atkins, lead attorney at the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) in San Diego, CA. You should know her name as she is the lead author on your *Compendium*. As the semester progresses, we will note which topics we'd like to cover more deeply, or from an attorney's perspective. I have some ideas, but I want to know what you need from her.

Discussion: Continue with "MFT/PCC Essentials" COUN 239, hours, supervision, etc.

Week 16: Thursday, December 9, and Friday, December 10, 2021

Consultation Days. No class; Dan will be available for advising.

YOUR FINAL EXAM WILL BE POSTED ON THE CLASS WEB SITE AT 12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021 (SECOND CONSULTATION DAY).

Week 17: Thursday, December 16, 2021

Final Examination: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (More information forthcoming on exact time and place of the "exam"). The exam will cover readings and discussions and will attempt to crystallize the emerging gestalt into a succinct formulation, thus bringing closure to this life experience. Say what? This MAY be a take-home exam.