



Code of Ethics



Professionalism

Agenda

- Ethics
- ASCE Ethics Discussion

**Doing what is
right even
when no one
is looking**



Ethics is
not
religion,
although
religions
advocate
high
ethical
standards



**Being ethical is not the same as
following the law**



**Being ethical is not the same as
doing “whatever society accepts”**



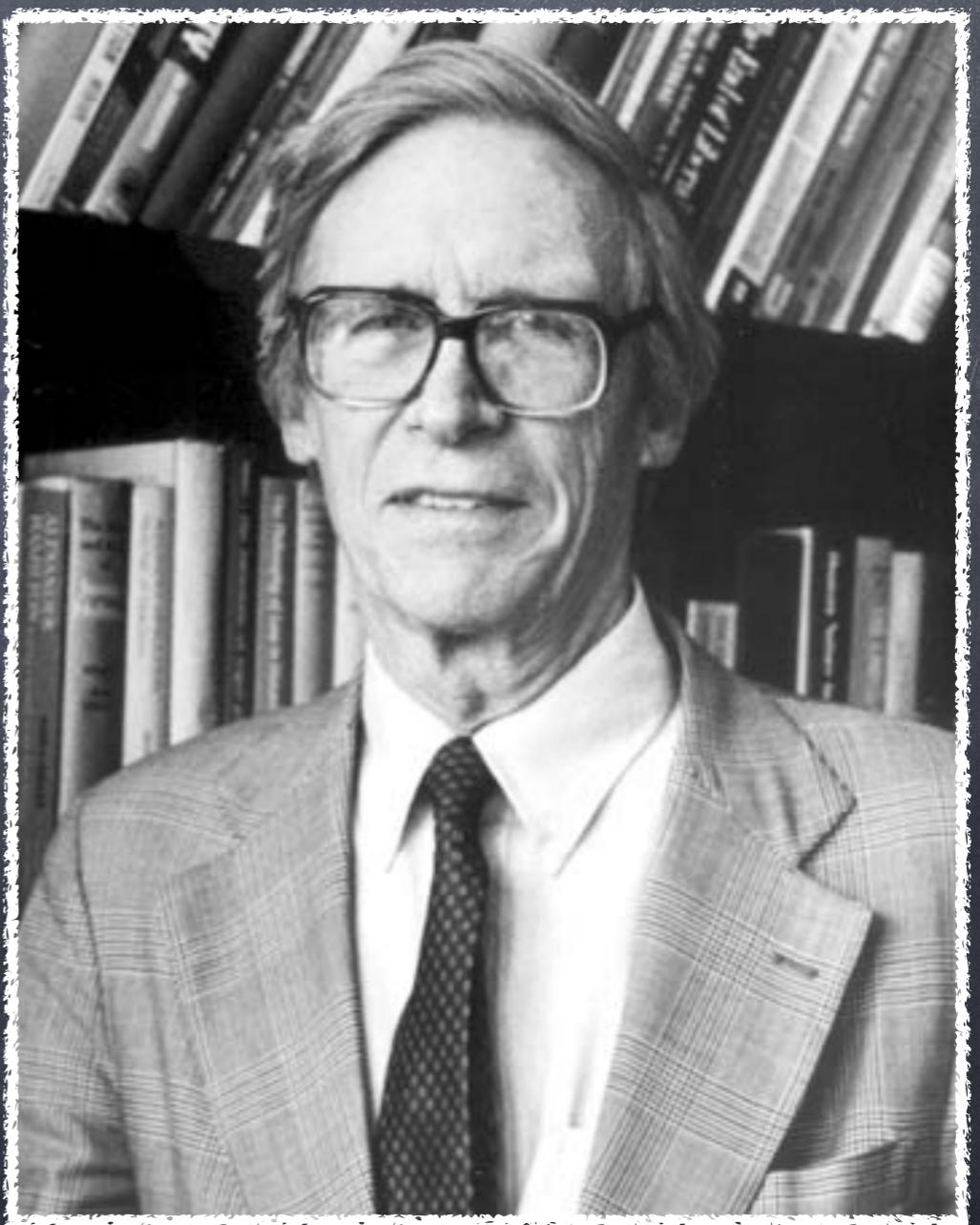
RIGHT
&
WRONG

Ethics refers to well-founded standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues.

Ethics also means, then, the continuous effort of studying our own moral beliefs and our moral conduct, and striving to ensure that we, and the institutions we help to shape, live up to standards that are reasonable and solidly-based.

John Rawls

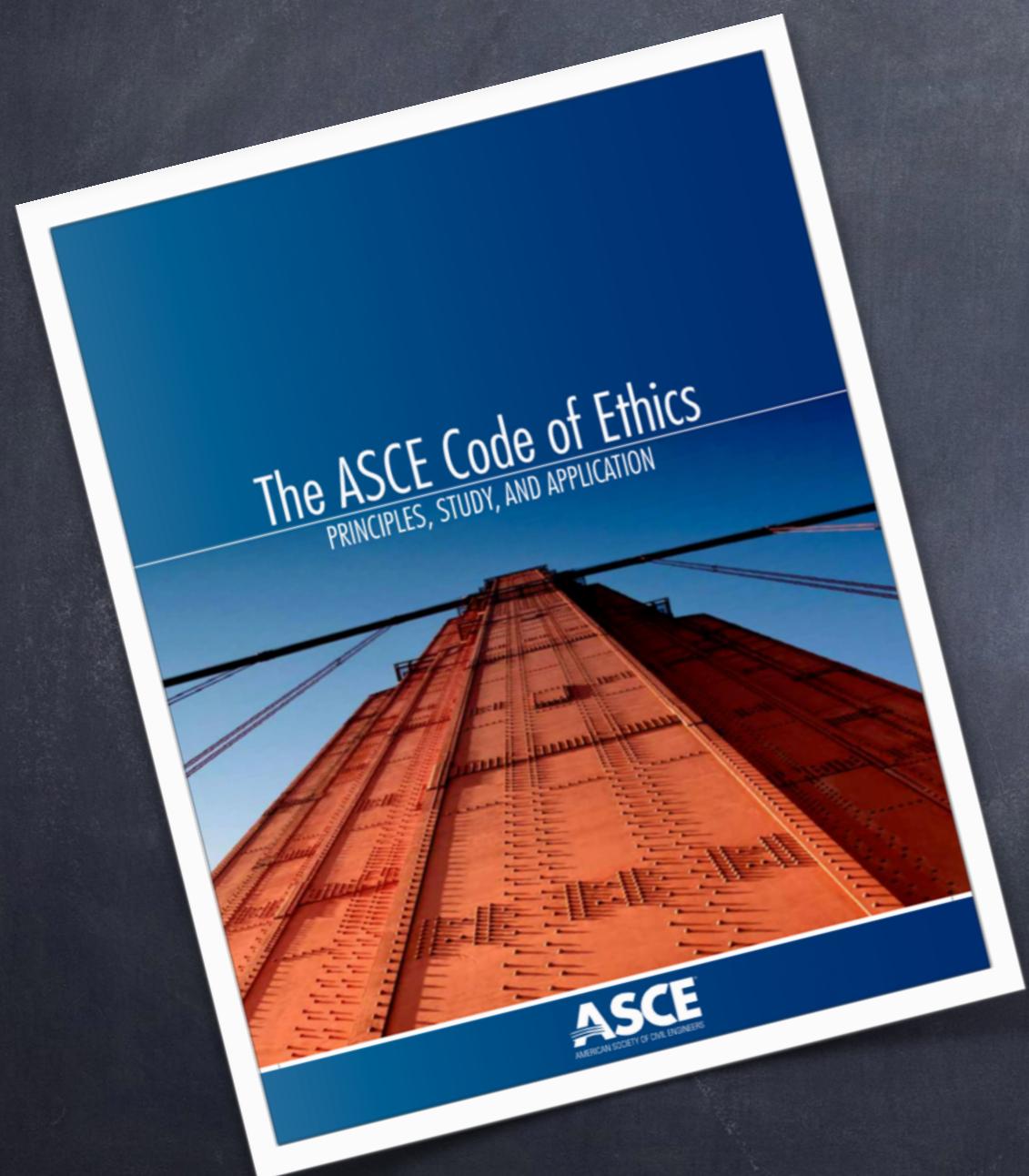
- Veil of Ignorance (1971)
- Principle of justice in which you don't know how the outcome would effect you



Ethical Analysis Tools

- **Harm Test:** Does this option do less harm than the alternatives?
- **Publicity Test:** Would I want my choice of this option published in the newspaper? Would I want my Grandma to know?
- **Defensibility Test:** Could I defend this choice of option before a committee of peers, or a Congressional committee, without appearing self-serving?
- **Reversibility Test:** Would I still think this choice of option was good if it were applied to me instead of others, especially if some of the effects are adverse?
- **Colleague Test:** What might my profession's governing board or ethics committee say about this option?
- **Organization Test:** What does my organization's ethics officer or legal counsel say about this?
- **Virtue Test:** Would a virtuous person do this? What kind of person does this? What kind of person would I become if I did this kind of thing all the time?

Code of Ethics



- A code of ethics is a basic set of values and behaviors that are intended to be embraced by users so they conduct themselves responsibly, in an irreproachable manner, with honor and integrity.

ASCE Code of Ethics



Public



**Client/
Employer**



**Licensed
civil
engineers**



The code is not

- The Code of Ethics will not make a decision for you. It will provide founding principles for you to apply when you evaluate a problem, reason a conclusion, and take action.

ASCE CODE OF ETHICS

Fundamental Principle

1. Using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare and the environment;
2. Being honest and impartial and serving with fidelity the public, their employers and clients;
3. Striving to increase the competence and prestige of the engineering profession; and
4. Supporting the professional and technical societies of their disciplines.



ASCE
Fundamental Canons

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and shall strive to comply with the principles of sustainable development in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Engineers shall perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

4. Engineers shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, and shall avoid conflicts of interest.

5. Engineers shall build their professional reputation on the merit and integrity of their services and shall not compete unfairly with others.

6. Engineers shall act in such a manner as to uphold and enhance the honor, integrity, and dignity of the engineering profession and shall act with zero-tolerance for bribery fraud and corruption.
7. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers, and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those engineers under their supervision.