

Ethical Framework Definitions:

Social Contract Theory:

Morality consists in the set of rules, governing how people are to treat one another, that rational people will agree to accept, for their mutual benefit, on the condition that others follow those rules as well.

Deontology:

An ethical theory that holds that actions are morally right or wrong independent of their consequences.

Utilitarianism:

An ethical theory that holds that an action is right if it produces, or tends to produce, the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

Justice:

Consists in giving each person his or her 'due,' treating equals equally and unequals unequally.

Ethic of Care:

Asks us to recognize and take seriously the moral worth of relationships, particularly those characterized by caring.

Libertarianism:

Suggests right action consists in maximizing the capacity for free, informed personal choice.

Land Ethic:

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.

Virtue Theory:

Focus is on achieving our personal ethical ideal—a matter of who we are, not what we do.