Foreword to the First Edition

This book aims at introducing Ph.D. students and professional economists to the theory of contracts. It originated in graduate-level courses I gave at Stanford University and at ENSAE (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique) to third-year students. This book has benefited from discussions with these students.

The course notes were published as Théorie des contrats in France by Economica. The present book is a fully revised, somewhat expanded, and hopefully improved translation of that book.

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