Market microstructure is the study, both theoretically and empirically of tick by tick price determination in a security market. Such a study includes the nature of quotes, orders and how transactions evolve. The focus of this course is the set of a relatively few number of standard theoretical models in the area. The course starts with a discussion of market “plumbing,” i.e. the way markets work and their rules. This will form the basis for analyzing the realism of various models. We then work through the models and their variants in order to understand their key contributions and empirical implications. We end with a discussion of regulatory issues and how the models inform, or do not inform, the regulatory discussion.

A book that mirrors our organization of the course is *The Microstructure of Financial Markets* by Frank de Jong and Barbara Rindi (Cambridge University Press, 2009) (in the schedule JR). I do not require purchase of the book (used copies appear to be available for around $10) in that exam and problem set questions can be answered with the course notes and readings. You will also be given a .pdf of a manuscript that has become the book *The New Stock Market: Law, Economics and Policy* by Merritt B. Fox, Lawrence R. Glosten and Gabriel V. Rauterberg (FGR). Where appropriate, I will make available on Canvas original papers. There will be three problem sets. You may work on these in groups, but each submission is individual. They will amount to 30% of your grade. 70% of the grade will be based on an in class final exam.

**Schedule**

3/26  **Introduction and overview**  
Market Institutions, Structure of Trading  
JR Chapter 1, FGR Chapter 1, pp9-29

3/28  **Market Plumbing**  
FGR

4/2  **Regulation of Trading Markets**  
FGR Chapter 1 29-33

4/4  **Dealer Markets and Competition**  
FGR Chapter 3
4/9  Asymmetric Information Equilibrium  
JR Chapter 2

4/11  Rational Expectations Equilibrium

4/16  Models of liquidity provision  
Kyle (1985)  
JR Chapter 3

4/18  Extensions

4/23  Models of liquidity provision  
Glosten/Milgrom (1985)  
JR Chapter 4

4/25  Limit Order Book Equilibrium  
Glosten (1994)  
JR Chapter 8

4/30  Empirical implications and measures of liquidity  
JR Chapter 6

5/2  Regulatory issues  
FGR Chapter 4