

Textbook FAQ

Q: Where can I find the book lists for my classes?

The Reed Bookstore is the main source for textbook information before the start of classes. We have the lists available Textbooks -> Buy/Rent on the top left of the main bookstore page and choose either to buy directly from the bookstore, or go to our price comparison website and compare our prices with prices from multiple online vendors. You can even check out through our price comparison website all in one location regardless of whether you buy the books from us, or somewhere else online.

Typically professors will also provide a list of required texts on their class syllabus, usually handed out on the first few days of class.

Q: How do I use the price comparison website?

A short video explaining the comparison shopping website can be found [here](#). The price comparison is a resource for students provided by the Reed Bookstore, but we are only responsible for those books purchased through the bookstore. Other vendors have their own returns and refund policies.

Q: Does the Reed Bookstore have ebooks?

The Reed Bookstore has partnered with a few ebook distributors to offer a limited number of traditional textbook ebook leases through our website. For now, these can only be found on our [Price Comparison website](#). You can find these books, where they are available, under the From The Warehouse label with the length of rental available. Please note that CourseSmart does allow a free trial. Given student responses to ebooks, we highly suggest that you preview the product before committing to purchasing it.

Q: What is the refund policy for textbooks and rentals?

Textbooks, provided that they are in the condition that they were purchased in, can be returned to the bookstore for a full refund within the first two weeks of school. Partial refunds may also be available, and a copy of the refund policy will be attached to your receipt. Please note that a new textbook must be returned in new condition with no markings, exterior damage, or bent pages or covers. Any electronic access code that has been purchased and redeemed cannot be returned so be sure that you will not be dropping the course before you redeem it online.

Q: What is the return policy for ebooks and/or books bought from online vendors listed on your price comparison page?

Ebooks purchased/rented through our price comparison website are provided by 3rd party sources that are not affiliated with Reed College. Be sure to research the refund policy of the company you will be making the purchase from before doing so.

In addition, any books ordered from one of the 3rd party "From The Web" vendors listed on our price comparison page are subject to the refund policies of the venues through which they are listed. Often these listings are individual sellers listing their personal books, so always do research before clicking "checkout". Watch for keywords like "international edition" as these cannot be bought by the bookstore at buyback.

Q: When are textbook lists available to students?

Textbook lists should be available by the start of registration each term. During registration there should be a link directing you to each class's list of books in the SOLAR system. Please note, not all professors have their book lists in by this time, but all book lists that have been submitted will be available.

Q: How can I purchase my textbooks through the bookstore?

The bookstore is located in the lower level of the Gray Campus Center and online at bookstore.reed.edu. If the book is not yet on the shelf in our store, you can preorder books on our website.

Q: Can I purchase my textbooks early?

Yes – even if books are not yet available on our shelves, you can preorder books on our website.

Q: What is a rental textbook? How does the rental program work?

A rental textbook can be rented at the start of the term and returned at the designated due date (usually at the last day of finals for the designated term). Some books assigned for year-long courses can be rented for the entire year. You will not receive money during student buyback for rental books: the money you save is up front.

Q: Can I write in my new rental text?

Yes – if you rent a book new all we ask is that the book is returned in a good used condition. Feel free to mark the book as you would a used

book.

Q: I rented a textbook but I want to keep it. Can I do that?

Yes – you will have to pay the rental replacement fee, which covers our costs to replace the book.

Q: Can I sell my books back to the bookstore?

Yes, the bookstore provides at least two buybacks per year during finals week. What we can pay for your books is dependent on whether the bookstore has received a textbook adoption for the book (that is, if a professor will be using the book in the next term). Books that we know will be used in the next term are priced higher than books that we buy without knowing when they will be used again. We also pay national market value for through our used wholesale partners for books that are not being used again at Reed for which there is national demand.

Buyback prices can be found online under the Textbooks -> Sell/Buyback link at the top left corner of our home page.

Q: I can't make it to buyback. Can I sell my books back anytime?

Yes. The bookstore cannot promise the highest prices during the rest of the year (as we don't have adoptions from our faculty), but we can pay national market value for any book. Prices can be found online under the Textbooks -> Sell/Buyback link at the top left corner of our home page. Ask at the Book Office in the back corner of the textbook area.

Q: I received a textbook scholarship – how do I use it?

If you already have a bookstore account, the money will be deposited into your account and you'll use that account to pay for your purchases. If you do not yet have a bookstore account, a debit account will be set up for you. If you have a debit account, once your scholarship money is gone no further charges can be made to that account unless additional money is deposited. If you would like to change that account into a credit account you can contact our accountant Jill Charvat at charvatj@reed.edu.

Q: Can I buy supplies with my textbook scholarship?

Yes. The textbook scholarship is not limited to the purchase of textbooks – if you need to buy art supplies, notebooks, or other items you can charge them against your scholarship account.

Q: What is a course reader?

A course reader is a printed course pack assembled by your professor for class use. The packs are printed and assembled through Reed's print shop and are available for sale at the Reed Bookstore. The price of course readers depends on the amount of materials requiring copyright clearance as well as printing costs. These costs are broken out for you on the course pack.

Q: Where is my cross listed class?

Cross listed classes are designated in our book system as they are in IRIS, so occasionally they can be hard to find. Here's a quick key for some of the harder to find courses:

Literature in translation: Most books are shelved and organized based on the language. German, Spanish, Chinese and French can be found under Ger/Litg, Span/Lits, Chin/Lits and Fren/Lit respectively. Russian Literature can be found as Litr/Russ, but will be shelved with the Russian books.

As for other cross listed classes, search for both cross listings (so, for Anth/Ling search in both Anthro and Ling for your course), or send us an email with questions.

Not answered in our FAQ? Contact Patrick Sandlin (sandlinp@reed.edu) with additional questions.

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