

Tips for Buying Books Online

Most of the books assigned in seminary courses are not readily available on the shelves of retail bookstores. For this reason, many students choose to purchase books online. The library has compiled some information to help students with this process.

- The list of books for courses provided by the Dean's office includes an ISBN (International Standard Book Number). Searching by the ISBN will help you be sure you are ordering the specific edition of the book that the professor has in mind.
- Pay attention to the shipping costs and the expected date of delivery.
- Be sure to check the return policy, both of the website and the individual seller.
- Buying used books will save you money, but be aware of a few things:
 - Pay attention to the condition of the book(s) you order. Used books are sold in a variety of conditions, from “like new” to heavily used.
 - Be aware that each book might come from a different seller and may not arrive at the same time. You can usually see the location of the seller so you will know where it would ship from if you ordered it.
- A note on editions:
 - If you can, buy the edition your professor is assigning for the course. If it costs too much, you might try asking your professor if the previous edition would be suitable. Sometimes, a new edition is almost the same as the previous one. But sometimes new editions have additional content that you will need.
 - A previous edition could save you money, but before buying an older edition, check with your professor first!
- Renting: Most of the websites listed below also offer rental textbooks. Renting a book may be a less expensive option for a book you don't think you will keep after the end of the course. Check the individual website for information on renting. Their rules and rates will vary.

On the reverse page is information regarding purchasing used books on a few different websites. There are numerous websites that sell books, and this is only a list of suggested websites that we are familiar with. (No requirement to use them is implied.)

Although the websites below sell both new and used books, most of the following information is regarding used books.

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Sellers: Anyone.

Seller Rating: Compiled from customer feedback ratings.

Book Condition: Varying conditions are available.

Multi-ISBN Search: Available in the Textbook section of the Book department.

Shipping: Some (not all) items are eligible for free shipping on orders over \$25.00.

[Barnes&Noble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com)

Sellers: Independent booksellers and small businesses that have been approved by Barnes & Noble.com to provide customers with used and out-of-print books.

Book Condition: From New to Acceptable.

ISBN Search: Click on the Textbooks tab, then an ISBN can be entered into the search field.

[Textbooks.com](https://www.textbooks.com)

Sellers: Anyone

Book Condition: New and used, varying conditions

ISBN Search: An ISBN can be entered into the main search field.

Shipping: Free shipping on orders over \$25.00

[Half.com](https://www.half.com)

Sellers: Anyone

Book Condition: New and used, varying conditions, rated by seller.

ISBN Search: An ISBN can be entered into the main search field, or click on the Textbooks tab for an ISBN search field.

[Alibris.com](https://www.alibris.com)

Sellers: A "network of independent sellers." More information is available by clicking on the name of the seller.

Seller Rating: A rating assigned by Alibris.com indicating how reliable the seller is in terms of keeping their listings up-to-date. This rating does not reflect quality of service. More information is available by clicking on the dots next to Reliability.

Book Condition: From New and Fine/Like New to Poor.

Multi-ISBN Search: Available under the Textbooks tab.

[Bookfinder.com](https://www.bookfinder.com)

This website is useful for finding old or out of print books.