

LIBRARY RESERVES

Many instructors reserve textbooks and other resources at the Library specifically for students registered in their classes. Students can access these materials for a short period of time (usually three hours).

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

OER materials are shared teaching and learning materials made freely available online. Your instructor may make these available through Langara's learning management system, D2L.

If you prefer a printed copy, consider using Langara's Printshop, as they can print for less than it would cost to do at home.

www.langara.ca/printing

RECEIPTS

Always keep your receipts. The Langara Bookstore return policy requires receipts.

COLLEGE CONTACTS

Langara Bookstore

604.323.5525

bookstore@langara.bc.ca

100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver, BC Canada V5Y 2Z6

www.langara.ca/bookstore

Navigating textbooks and course materials at Langara

QUESTIONS

Ask your instructor, the department, or the bookstore when you have any questions regarding your textbooks. Student success is based on getting the best, most-effective course materials possible, and help is always available.



Common terms

REQUIRED

These textbooks and course materials are considered essential for academic success. Instructors will teach directly from these materials, often assigning specific readings and assignments necessary to learn the subject. Most lab manuals, for example, are required since students must regularly submit completed assignments for grading purposes.

OPTIONAL

Instructors might recommend optional materials to expand students' understandings of a given subject. Unlike required textbooks, instructors don't generally refer to optional materials, nor will they assign specific readings or assignments from them.

USED TEXTBOOKS

Because many instructors use the same textbook for several terms, students are often able to buy used textbooks and save money. The Langara Bookstore makes used copies available whenever possible, either through buyback, or by purchasing them from used book wholesalers. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Some instructors require specific editions of a textbook. Make sure you're getting a version compatible with your class.
- If a course requires an access code, check and see if you can purchase the code separately before buying used materials.

- Beware: often the cost of a used textbook and an access code purchased separately exceed the price of a new textbook with the access code included.
- Because stock is always limited, it is a good idea to purchase used books early in the term, as they tend to sell first.

BUYBACK

At the end of term, the Bookstore gives students the opportunity to sell their textbooks through a program called Buyback. Not all books are eligible. Check the bookstore website for dates and details.

www.langara.ca/bookstore

BUNDLES

Instructors may work with publishers to create custom course material bundles. These packages often include an abridged version of the required textbook, an access code, and possibly lecture notes produced specifically for the class. Individual components may or may not be available for purchase separately.

COURSEPACKS

Custom coursepacks are collections of readings from various sources that your instructor has produced specifically for a class. Coursepacks range in size from a couple of pages to several hundred, and are almost always required. Due to copyright laws, bookstores cannot sell used coursepacks.

ACCESS CODES

Large classes often require students to get digital access to a course-specific website administered by the instructor. These websites act like online classes, comprised of assignments, quizzes, study aides, discussion groups, and possibly an e-textbook. Although some access codes can be purchased separately, similar to an online subscription, they are usually packaged with new textbooks or included in custom bundles.

E-TEXTBOOKS

Some textbooks are available digitally to be read on computers, tablets, and other devices. Because there are no printing costs, the price of e-textbooks is generally lower than traditional formats.

E-textbooks usually expire after a set length of time, generally sometime between six and 24 months.

TEXTBOOK RENTALS

The Langara Bookstore offers some textbooks for rental. These books can be rented for a term, and must be returned at the end of the term. This can be a cost-effective solution, especially when students won't be using the textbook for subsequent classes. Students that do not return the books must pay the replacement cost and a handling fee.