

Here's some info about how to not waste money on textbooks. It was written when OSU was still on the quarter system, so some things may be out of date or not apply. It should still be very helpful, though.

Don't waste money on textbooks. People spend hundreds each semester on books - I've maybe spent \$300 in 4.5 years at OSU. You can find plenty online for free - search title, author and/or ISBN here: <http://tinyurl.com/arksool>

Here are some free book downloads that someone found, for lots of common classes:

<http://goo.gl/fpmDr>

You can find what textbooks are currently assigned for your classes here: [Barnes & Noble textbook lookup](#)

General textbook advice is first, and more detailed info on how to find books for free is below.

General textbook advice:

WAIT.

Trust me. I've done this 12 times already. Don't order your books right after orientation. Especially don't buy them at Barnes & Noble (the "official" book store in Central Classrooms). They're far cheaper at all the other bookstores near campus. They're listed below in the "addendum" section.

How to find the books you "need":

In BuckeyeLink, go to your schedule. From there, there should be a "buy books" link.

Or,

<http://ohiostate.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&storeId=33552&langId=-1>

Though you have to enter each class manually there, and find the section number from your schedule anyway, so you might as well do it through your schedule.

Email your professors if/once they're listed on your schedule.

You can find their email addresses here: <https://directory.osu.edu/findpeople.php>

You can wait 'til the first day of class, too. If you do, ask on the first class and order them ASAP after. If you think you'll need them soon, pay more for faster shipping.

Ask which books you need and which are recommended/optional. For the ones you need, you have options:

1. Torrents. the pirate bay has many popular books. if you can't find them using their search, try bookname author site:thepiratebay.org in google. Other torrent search sites have other books, and google can lead you to free textbok download sites. Be careful with the random "download stuff" sites though, especially if you don't know what you're doing.

2. Ask if it's on closed reserves at the library. Many instructors give a copy of the book to the library and you can borrow it for an hour at a time. This is useful if you only need the book for homework problems. Copy it or take a picture, then do problems in your dorm or whatever.
3. Ask if an older edition will do. These are dirt cheap. Like, under \$10 shipped.
4. Consider sharing a book with someone in the same class/section.
5. Use <http://campusbooks.com/> or a similar site. Stick the ISBN in there and it'll show you your cheapest options for buying/renting. Remember that renting means you can't sell them back.
6. If at all possible, **sell your books back** to Barnes and Noble. As soon as you're done with them. They get the book list from the professors first and they know what they need the soonest. They'll buy them back for the most. After going there, it's kind of a crap shoot as to who will buy them back for the most. You might as well just go to the next bookstore and sell them. They'll all be about the same and all very cheap, if they'll even take them. You can check how much they'll buy them back for by physically going there and there will be tents set up around campus and along High near the bookstores, and you can check on some of their web sites.

Another (probably better) option is to sell them back to/through Amazon.

1. You can sell through Amazon's marketplace, the same place you should be buying them from. This is a bit more involved, but you get more usually and the cash is deposited directly into your account as opposed to getting Amazon credit. You should sell for a bit less than the lowest used price, and check it often to be sure yours is the lowest. I've sold 3 books like this and they've all been bought within 3-4 days max. Amazon will take ~\$14 of the price you sell a \$80 book for.
Instructions: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=1161232>
 2. You can send them directly to Amazon in exchange for Amazon credit. You usually get at least slightly less this way, though it is easier and guaranteed (i.e., you don't have to wait for someone to buy them).
- <http://www.amazon.com/Textbook-Buyback>

Example: <http://www.amazon.com/Social-Psychology-7th-Elliot-Aronson/dp/0138144788>

"Sell Your Copy" box on the right: \$66.34 in Amazon credit for trading in directly to Amazon vs. \$96.89 lowest used selling price (before Amazon takes fees).

A good time to list them for sale is about a week before the start of a new quarter/semester, because that's when prices are usually highest.

The one issue with waiting 'til class starts is that you might not be able to get the best price (online) because of shipping or if bookstores sell out of used copies. You can always get faster shipping, though. Emailing instructor solves these problems.

Also, most non-douchy professors will understand book issues and won't expect you to have them the first week. If you need it, you can always borrow/scan/copy/snap pics

of someone else's.

If your schedule just says "staff" as the instructor, it means the department doesn't have its shit together and hasn't assigned an instructor for that section yet. Wait. If it still says staff 2 weeks before classes start, call the department. The math department is notorious for pulling crap like that.

Don't buy them from Barnes & Noble!

Addendum: for custom editions like the Spanish stuff, you can't get it online except from Barnes & Noble. The Spanish books are written by OSU professors.

Check the other bookstores on campus. UBX, SBX, College Town.

Here's a Google map of those: <http://goo.gl/mdLYQ> click on the markers to get address/phone number

- UBX: (614) 299-7771 10 East 15th Avenue (from my experience, UBX is usually the cheapest) <http://www.ubxbookexchange.com/>
- SBX: (614) 291-9528 1806 N High St <http://www.sbx-osu.com/>
- College Town: (614) 294-0688 1770 N High St <http://www.collegetown-ohiostate.com/>

On some of their web sites, you can reserve books, possibly check prices, and see how much they'll buy a book back for.

Also, here's a textbook info site from OSU I didn't know existed:

<http://textbooks.osu.edu/index.html>

- **Course packets**

Course packets are copied pages that are spiral bound. They're provided by the professor and are basically workbooks. Because they're usually written by... a professor for the class, they're usually much cheaper than textbooks. Mine were \$5-\$30, and they were for CSE 201/221/222/321/680, Engineering H191 & 183A, Physics 131I. Of those, only CSE222 seems to still use one, and it's \$45, so maybe they're becoming less popular or more expensive, which sucks.

Anyway, if your class needs one of those, it'll show up in the list on the textbook search page (<http://go.osu.edu/bookcoursesearch>).

You should get course packets ASAP, because you'll almost definitely need it. Order them online to avoid lines

Again,

Here are some free book downloads that someone found, for lots of common classes:

<http://goo.gl/fpmDr>

Books that are currently there:

- Bio 101
- Bio 113-114 + test bank
- Bugml 784

- Chem 121-123(?)
- Comm 100
- Comm 597
- Econ 200 (maybe?)
- Engineering 183/192/? Matlab book
- English 110 - Writing Analytically
- M&L 755
- Math 151-254 (I've been told that these aren't the current books, but they'd still work as long as you don't need to do homework problems from them, because math is math)
- Physics 111-113(?) + homework/webass solutions manual
- Physics 131-132
- Psych 100
- Psych 300-ish
- Psych 301
- Psych 313
- Psych 340ish
- Sociology 101

After opening the book you want, use the "download original" link in the top right to download the pdf. Or somewhere in the file menu.

These might not all be the exact correct versions - they were correct at one point, but things change. Even if they're not exactly right, they should still be fine. Newer editions don't change much aside from some homework problems.

If anyone has any more to contribute, feel free.

Here's how to find free books:

- Search here: <http://tinyurl.com/arksool>
- Check the pirate bay (<http://thepiratebay.org>), demonoid or some other torrent search site. Pirate bay's search engine is wonky, so search there by googling part of the title + author last name site:thepiratebay.org
- Google part of the book title + author + some combination of [free, download, ebook, pdf]
- Google for textbook download sites:
https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enUS379US379&ie=UTF-8&q=free+textbook+downloads
- Here are some I found:
- <http://ebooksfreedownload.org/>
- <http://ebooksplanet.net/>
- <http://librarypirate.me>

And be careful. If you're not experienced with navigating sites with spammy ads and downloads,

be sure to virus scan anything you download from them.