

Special Topics Courses Textbook Policy

Students are required to buy textbooks for their Special Topics courses. When we modify the Special Topics course syllabus, we identify the coursework and assignments each student will complete based on their level of abilities. We factor-in reading levels when we adapt the reading materials. Buying the book allows the student to complete the necessary coursework and assignments as well as to prepare for participation during in class activities or discussions.

When students purchase the textbook (new or used), we transfer the book into electronic copies that have several features for ease of adaptation to facilitate students' learning. The features include: 1. Audio-which students can use to listen to the assigned chapter readings; 2. Text formatting-which we can add visual aids to and change the text formatting; and 3. Organized sections-which is printed as needed instead of carrying the whole book around each day. We adapt the chapter readings by simplifying the vocabulary and outlining the main/important points. Students receive the outlines for assigned chapter readings before each class and one of our support staff will discuss or review lecture notes/outlines with the students as well. We also use graphic organizers and applicable learning/comprehension strategies with each student to ensure they understand the concepts discussed in the readings and in class.

Please note that our assistive technology team will tear the textbook apart to scan the pages. When finished, they will put the book back together with a spiral bind. If you rent the book, the book store will not accept it after it's been torn apart.

Another option would be to purchase the electronic copy directly from the publisher. Although it might be less expensive, there are limitations. Please check the disclaimer and copyright information to ensure your purchase gives you rights to use the electronic version as described.

Remember our goal is to have the student explore the course content and be engaged with the class. Preparation is key and purchasing the book is part of that process.