

**Perception (PSY 323) 43855**  
Spring 2010, TTH 12:30-2:00, NOA 1.124

**Instructor:** Wilson S. Geisler

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**Office hours:** T TH immediately after class

**TA:** Llewyn Paine (email: [llpaine@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:llpaine@mail.utexas.edu))

**Office:** SEA 5.118

**Office hours:** MWF 1:00-2:00

**Content:**

The perceptual systems (vision, hearing, touch, smell, and so on) are the brain's window on the world. This lecture course presents an introduction to perceptual systems with an emphasis on perception in humans and non-human primates. In this course, students will learn about the physics of perceptual stimuli, the neural processing of perceptual information, the performance of humans (and other primates) in perceptual tasks, and the evolution of perceptual systems.

**Grades:**

Two one-hour exams and a comprehensive final will be given in this course. Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. The one-hour exams will each be worth 30% and the final exam 40% of the grade. The exams and finals may include some questions based upon lecture material not covered (or not covered extensively) in the readings.

**Textbook and readings:**

Blake, R. and Sekuler, R. (2006) *Perception (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Other course materials will be available at the website: <http://homepage.psy.utexas.edu>. To get these materials go to "Classes" at this site and then go to "323". Let me know if you have any trouble.

More about the instructor and perception research on campus see: [www.cps.utexas.edu/](http://www.cps.utexas.edu/)

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

The Psychology Department will drop all students who do not meet the following prerequisites:

- (a) PSY 301 with a C or better
- (b) PSY 418 (or an equivalent listed in the course schedule) with a C or better
- (c) Upper-Division standing (60 hours completed)

**Tentative schedule of lectures:**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1/19	Introduction	S&B 1
1/21	Approaches and methods	S&B 1, Appendix
1/26	No class (AIC)	S&B 1
1/28	Sound, acoustics	S&B 10
2/2	The ear	S&B 10
2/4	Auditory pathways	S&B 10

2/9	Sensitivity and masking	S&B 11, Appendix
2/11	Loudness and pitch perception	S&B 11
2/16	Sound localization and grouping	S&B 11
2/18	Speech perception	S&B 11
2/23	Light and the eye	S&B 2
2/25	The photoreceptors	S&B 2
3/2	<b>FIRST EXAM</b>	
3/4	The retina	S&B 3
3/9	Vision and the retina	S&B 3
3/11	Central visual pathways	S&B 4
3/16	Spring Break	
3/18	Spring Break	
3/23	Central visual pathways	S&B 4
3/25	Spatial vision and form perception	S&B 5
3/30	Spatial vision and form perception	S&B 5
4/1	Eye movements	S&B 2 (p. 34-40), 9 (p. 327-333)
4/6	Object perception (USC; guest)	S&B 6 (p. 193-214)
4/8	Color perception	S&B 7
4/13	Color perception	S&B 7
4/15	Depth perception	S&B 8
4/20	Depth and motion perception	S&B 8, 9
4/22	Motion and event perception	S&B 9
4/27	<b>SECOND EXAM (NAS; LP)</b>	
4/29	Visual attention	S&B 6 (p. 215-231)
5/4	Evolution of perceptual systems	
5/6	Review for final	
5/12	<b>FINAL EXAM (2:00-5:00)</b>	