

Student Evaluations: Selected Comments

Aaron Braver

Courses marked with (G) are graduate courses. All others are undergraduate courses.

Fall 2018

Structure of Sign Languages (G)

“Fascinating class and well organised. I think the work load is appropriate and beneficial.”

“ His offering of such a topic which normally goes unnoticed in several other institutions of higher education is something worth acknowledging. His presentation of the subject matter is so organized and scaffolded... In class, as much as he shows makes his scholarship available, he never forget to imply that he is human just like us and who cares about us... Wish we had 10 Bravers in the department. ”

“Dr. Braver does a great job at breaking down linguistic terminology. I had no experience in linguistics before this course, and thanks to Dr. Braver, I was able to grasp the concept and apply it to the course.”

How Language Works (online)

“Great class, great instructor!”

“ It was an extremely interesting class and the professor was more than willing to help with anything we did not fully understand. Encouraging environment. ”

“We had the opportunity to ask questions if we didn’t understand it fully, and he always explained it to us so that we DID understand it after that. Great teacher.”

Spring 2018

Linguistic Science

“Loved the class! Very interesting and informative. A good overview of the different areas someone could potentially study in linguistics. The workload was also enough to help me learn the material without feeling overly burdened.”

“ This was my favorite class I took at this university. Dr. Braver is extremely knowledgeable, entertaining, easy to learn from, and overall an excellent teacher. There is nothing I would change about this class. It was an absolute pleasure to take it. ”

“Dr. Braver is funny and calm. The class has a nice learning atmosphere.”

Language in a Multicultural America

“The research paper at the end of the semester was nice; it’s rare to see a research project at this level and it was a nice learning experience to help tackle the rather intimidating process of research in a relatively low-pressure environment (compared to an upper level course.)”

“ Dr. Braver is an amazing professor, seriously. He made a class that I wasn’t at all interested in exciting and was very good with class discussions and assignment feedback. Probably top 2 professors I have had at Texas Tech. ”

“This class was very much fun, one of the ones I looked most forward to.”

Fall 2017

Phonology (G)

“ Dr. Braver is an excellent scholar: extremely knowledgeable, perfectly organized, and very understanding of students’ needs and interests. The logical and consequential organization of assignments helps consolidating topics and allows you to move to the final project with the tools you need. Thank you Dr. Braver! I’ll keep taking your courses :) ”

“It can be challenging sometimes. Its challenge was a sometimes pleasing. Although the homework sometimes seemed really long (or sometimes very hard) it’s been an excellent experience doing them.”

“The course could be improved by lessening the homework, or spacing out the homework to make the homework seem more manageable.”

Spring 2017

Linguistic Science

“ This has been the best professor that I’ve ever had. If he had more courses that I could take I would. I cannot stress enough how great of an educator Dr. Braver is. ”

“ One of the most informational and learning-centered courses I have ever taken. The professor cared deeply about the students’ comprehension... which promoted a healthy learning environment. I learned a lot, thank you! ”

“He is very funny and insightful. A well-rounded, successful instructor.”

“ This has been one of my favorite classes in my three years here. I switched into this class and was nowhere near disappointed... I learned so much, not just about linguistics. You are an amazing professor! Thank you! ”

“I love linguistics!”

“ This class was surprisingly fantastic... I learned a great deal, thanks to Prof. Braver—able to break everything down to explain simply. ”

“Don’t change... Excellent teaching...”

Language in a Multicultural America (2 sections)

“Great prof, cool guy!”

“...I feel like I learned a lot. I would definitely recommend this course to other students.”

“ Very good learning experience. Dr. Braver is a great professor. ”

“Posting the notes online would help.”

“ [He] really had a good structured class and made it possible to succeed! ”

“Best teacher ever, he knows how to keep lectures entertaining and can give a balanced work load.”

Fall 2016

Linguistic Science (2 sections)

“Probably my favorite class this semester. Interesting topic. Well-taught.”

“I’ve learned so much and Dr. Braver is very informative and nice... [He] always keeps the class fun...”

“ Dr. Braver is kind, passionate, and intelligent; the perfect formula for a good class. ”

“Dr. Braver is a great professor and made sure that each student understood the material.”

“Professor Braver did an excellent job of alleviating the usual pressures of class... and making a solid learning environment... It was a great learning experience...”

“ Dr. Braver made exceptional strides to make sure all of his students could succeed as much as possible. And he’s funny. ”

“I wish I had time to take more of his classes. Great teacher!”

Language in a Multicultural America

“I was actually surprised by how good this course was.”

“Very interesting class; would love to see him teach more specialized linguistic[s] courses...”

“Dr. Braver kept it interactive.”

Spring 2016

Phonology (G)

“ [H]e was cautiously optimistic... that we would find this material useful in the greater scheme of our academic lives, and I think, without a doubt, he has succeeded. ”

“Dr. Braver is one of the smartest human beings I have ever met, and Texas Tech is unbelievably lucky to have him. Under a less capable instructor, this class would have been nearly indiscipherable... But the way Dr. Braver taught it—guiding the whole way—made it not only challenging and rewarding, but accessible as well.”

“ Dr. Braver is one of the professors who challenged my mind, which I like about his teaching philosophy. We were engaged in ... high[ly] challenging problem sets which was amazing! ”

“The lecture can be too fast sometimes.”

“This was one of my favorite classes ever. Dr. Braver is very knowledgeable and friendly and funny.”

Linguistic Science

“ [He] explained the information to perfection. I would recommend this class to anyone. ”

“Class was a fun experience and I learned a lot about the value of words and language.”

“Always helpful and ready to answer questions.”

“ Dr. Braver is very knowledgeable and passionate about linguistics. I learned so many new things that I hadn't learned in previous linguistics classes. ”

“The homework, at times, was a bit difficult.”

“Dr. Braver is very clear in his teaching and explanations, making the subject easy to learn.”

Fall 2015

Language in a Multicultural America

“ An excellent instructor... If I wasn't graduating I would love to take more courses with him. ”

“[I] would strongly recommend the class because Professor Braver does an excellent job with explanation, interest in the subject, and overall a fantastic professor.”

“Dr. Braver is a great professor. He's very stimulating with the topics and always gives great examples to relate to.”

Linguistic Science (online)

Texas Tech did not collect comments for online courses at this time.

Spring 2015

Perception, Cognition, and Language (G)

(Co-taught with Alex Grzankowski from the Philosophy department)

“Great class. No complaints. Would take again.”

“ This class lived up to the excitement and anticipation I had when I signed up (which is rare). ”

“No changes. This course was great.”

“The course was an interesting, rewarding experience.”

Fall 2014

Principles of Language (G)

“ ... I was inspired by what linguistics had to offer. I would recommend his class to anyone who is in a foreign language major. ”

“The workload was perfect. I was able to devote my time to learning the material instead of to completing excessive assessments. I will definitely take Dr. Braver again.”

Linguistic Science

“Possibly the best [course in the English department] I have taken at Tech.”

“I really hope I pass this class but if I don't I want to take his class again.”

“ Easily the best class for me this semester. ”

“Really interesting and fun!”

Spring 2014

Phonology

“ You were so patient and understanding, and [were] always available to talk about any problems I had with the homework...You actually cared about if we understood it or not. Thank you so much for a great semester! ”

“Dr. Braver does an excellent job at presenting the topic to the class.”

“He was an excellent professor.”

“ ...balances the abilities of those who are struggling with those who are [more advanced]. ”

“Though I may fail this class, it was still enjoyable.”

Phonology (G)

“This course is extremely difficult but also well instructed.”

“ [He] recognized how much effort we put into this course. I recommend his courses to any of my friends and colleagues. Way to go, Dr. Braver! ”

“The handouts were very helpful. The instructor explained the difficult concepts very well.”

“I really enjoyed the class, and even without a linguistics background I found I was able to keep up with the discussion.”

Fall 2013

Language in a Multicultural America

“ TTU should give him tenure as soon as possible before another university snatches him away. Loved this course! ”

“He’s really cool and smart and organized.”

“Very helpful when questions were asked. Great teaching style. My favorite class of the semester! Kudos!”

“Instructor is always well-prepared and engaging.”

“Having us read all the articles and have a printed out response was very time consuming and costly.”

“ At first, in terms of the “multicultural aspect”, I did not expect to get a lot out of it, but I feel like I actually learned a lot and gained some really meaningful perspective. ”

“Great instructor! He makes the material interesting and fun to learn.”

“The only change I might like to see would be starting the research project earlier.”

Studies in Linguistics: Structure of Sign Languages

“... Dr. Braver did a good job making it a fun 50 minutes of class! Would take him again! Recommend this teacher.”

“ Dr. Braver is engaging and makes things interesting in the way he presents information. This class was very interesting for this budding linguist. ”

“This is definitely a senior level course... The homework assignments seemed fair though.”

“The course material was difficult, but Dr. Braver presented it well and answered all questions.”