

Student Evaluations: Representative Comments

Aaron Braver

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

Spring 2025

Phonology G
(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

" I really appreciated how interactive this course was. Dr. Braver facilitated an environment in which the students felt safe answering his prompts, even if they made a mistake. "

"The opportunity to watch Dr. Braver walk us through every concept in class and then to practice those concepts in a low-stakes, completion grade homework assignment every week was extremely helpful for mastering bite-sized phonological concepts each week without feeling as if I'll be penalized for not completely understanding something in class. The semester-long project to then apply everything we learned to a language of our choice ensured that I remembered everything I learned and continued to put it into practice even after the weekly homework assignments were turned in."

" At first, I thought this phonology class would be difficult and a hard shell to crack, but it turned out to be one of the most rewarding learning experiences I've had. had "

"There were no least effective aspects."

"Dr. Braver is helpful, communicative, and great at keeping his lessons engaging through interesting and sometimes funny real-world examples. I am so glad I took his class and can point to so many tangible concepts that I have learned because of Dr. Braver's teaching."

Phonology
(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"I've rarely met individuals who are so passionate about their craft. Dr. Braver is a gem, and I hope Tech knows how lucky they are to have him."

" The guided notes were so helpful. Genuinely one of the best forms of note taking I've been provided with/encouraged to use throughout my entire undergrad experience. experience. "

"The final project being spread out throughout the semester and each phase being a building block to the final project [...] made the project not overwhelming at the end of the semester."

" I was very nervous coming into this course, but when we walked through everything together, I felt more confident and comfortable. "

"There were zero least effective aspects of this course. Everything was great!"

"I really like how the instructor was very understanding, flexible, and helpful. I really enjoyed coming to this class every Tuesday and Thursday. I learned a lot"

“ Dr. Braver gives you every single resource to succeed in this class.

”

Fall 2024

Introduction to Language (Hybrid online/face-to-face)

“The instructor was very good at pausing for questions and attentive to class needs.”

“ I was never bored in class.

”

“Discussion, visual, and audio examples helped a lot.”

“ Dr Braver explains topics with detail but in an easy to understand way.

”

“FANTASTIC instructor. He was extremely understanding and engaging. He made me want to do this work and come to class.”

Analyzing Quantitative Data in R (Hybrid online/face-to-face)

“Learning data visualization techniques was awesome.”

“ Dr. Braver gave me much perspective on what encouraging patience looks like.

”

“The labs were very helpful in practicing what we were learning.”

“I think sprinkling in lab assignments throughout lectures might be more effective than doing so at the end after lecture.”

Spring 2024

Language in a Multicultural America (Hybrid online/face-to-face)

“Dr. Braver is an amazing lecturer and keeps the small group involved the entire class.”

“ I left with a lot more understanding of the parts of a language and the groups that speak them.

”

“[Dr. Braver] also made a notable effort to include his online students in class discussion just as much as his students which attend class in-person.”

Principles of Language G

(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"My only critique, even though I am still pushing through at this time, is that he would help guide students with a class or so on what exactly the presentation and final language sketch should entail"

" He really helped me better understand linguistics and what that entails, even without prior knowledge. "

"Dr. Braver is the best professor I have ever been lucky enough to have. He laid out clearly the course objectives, and I always knew exactly where we were headed. He also made very confusing concepts that I had never thought about before clear and engaging to understand. Finally, his kindness, willingness to assist students outside of class time, and genuine commitment to accessibility and inclusivity is an example all instructors should follow."

Spring 2023

Principles of Language G

(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"I'm no linguist, but I actually feel like I learned some things in this course—real, tangible... approaches to language!"

" ...[t]his course was much better than most literature courses I have taken during my program. Im not a linguistic student, but I found that this course was very accessible to me... I've gained a lot of practical knowledge from this class that I would not have otherwise, and I dont think I can say that for many classes that I have taken. "

"Dr. Braver is great. He teaches us a LOT without making the course an unnecessarily difficult and stressful experience."

Fall 2022

How Language Works

(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"Really fun class, makes a lot of real world uses which I thought made the class more useful."

"Dr. Braver is one of the most consistently helpful, kind and supportive professors I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He makes an extremely difficult concept workable, which makes students desire to learn more about a field which before seems inaccessible."

" I learned a lot in this class. I was worried it might be too intense or confusing, but Dr. Braver did his best to make sure everyone was well-equipped to understand the material. "

"I thought I wasn't going to like this class, but it actually ended up being super interesting and applicable to the world around me! I've had so many conversations with people now about linguistics/syntax/etc, and it's all because of my new knowledge from Dr. Braver!"

"I feel as [if] more materials to help outside of the zoom lectures could have been provided."

Spring 2022

Phonology
(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"This may well be the most efficient and effective online lecture course I've taken."

"Dr. Braver goes above and beyond to help his students succeed, and his encouragement and positivity is matched only by his professionalism."

" This course was incredibly interesting and Dr. Braver is an excellent professor. He cares about his students, he cares about them learning the material, and he explains the material thoroughly and in an comprehensible manner. I am so glad I took this course! "

"Professor Braver teaches in a way that makes a complicated subject seem within grasp of comprehension. I am no linguist, but I managed to stumble my way through this course with his insightful instruction. His use of visual aids and media helped tremendously in my absorption of the information."

Fall 2021

Principles of Language 6
(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"Dr. Braver is a wonderful teacher. The course was quite tough but he was patient and very supportive. I enjoyed the class."

" Dr. Braver is a fantastic professor because he uses multiple points of access for the content. Linguistics is a difficult subject, and our class has many diverse learners, yet Dr. Braver's pedagogy was so good that everyone had what they needed to engage with the material. "

"This was a great class. I feel like I learned quite a bit of material! Thank you, Dr. Braver!"

"The best teacher/professor I have ever worked with."

Spring 2021

Introduction to Language
(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"It was very easy to learn in the class due to the way he taught us. The slides were super helpful and he was a very nice teacher. The only thing I would change about this course is putting the slides on blackboard so we have more material to study for tests."

" Professor Braver is 100% the best professor I have had. He never fails to make class interesting and enjoyable, which I appreciate greatly. This was my favorite class I have ever taken and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for an English credit class. "

"Dr. Braver is a fantastic instructor. His lessons match up with the tests. I would ask if he could slow down just a little bit. Often times, students are still taking notes while he changes slides."

Fall 2020

How Language Works (Online)

"Although the subject in the class was not my preference I learned to like it (somewhat) thanks to Dr. Braver he made the material interesting! "

" This is the only class this semester that I am glad I took on Zoom. Dr. Braver did a really good job at engaging with us through Chat and at noticing our questions. It was really nice to have such a technical class on Zoom because I could see the powerpoint, respond quicker to questions, and have a handout open in another [window]. "

"I really enjoyed this class. Its difficult to conduct a class thats three hours online. I think it was a learning process for us all but the pacing of our course was challenging to keep up with due to how much material was being covered each class. However, I thought that Dr. Braver did a wonderful job and was always more than willing to help out and offer his office hours for extra assistance."

Spring 2020

Language in a Multicultural America

"Dr. Braver is organized, passionate and inclusive. He is a superior-quality moderator and fosteror of discussion. It was a joy to come to his class every day. No matter what each persons different views were, he made each of us feel welcome and accepted."

"Thank you for being a proud ally for LGBTQIA+ students. The way you wove objective truths related to the LGBTQIA+ community into the curriculum was inspiring and taught me a lot. You are an example of someone *actively practicing* allyship, and that is impressive."

" The class was great and the discussions we had were ones to remember as they made you see everyones differing opinions. Cant want to take another one of his classes in Fall! "

How Language Works

"Professor genuinely made me want to go to class and learn new content"

'I really loved this course! Professor Braver conducts his lectures in a very professional yet engaging way. I can tell that he is very passionate about the subject matter that he teaches, which makes the course all the more interesting. I honestly did not expect to enjoy this course as much as I did; I will gladly recommend this course to anyone who needs this credit!'

" This instructor, Professor Braver, is one of the best and most enjoyable instructors I have ever had. Many classes have subjects which are enjoyable to learn about and make it worthwhile to return to the class. But not many classes have a professor that makes returning to the class worthwhile. "

Fall 2019

Phonology G

(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

" Dr. Braver was an exceptionally student-focused instructor. In crafting the material for the course, it was obvious that he considered and incorporated a variety of teaching strategies to accommodate a diverse group of learning styles. He shared his expertise in a way that allowed me to soak in even the most abstract concepts of phonology. "

"Everything was perfect; I like the handouts dr. Braver makes, and his way of teaching is fantastic."

"I suggest that the course cuts down the number of questions per each assignment... The fact that the assignments took too much time has adversely affected the extra reading and research required for the course. After all, working with Dr. Braver was a valuable experience this semester."

How Language Works

(Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"Dr. Braver is a great teacher. I thoroughly enjoyed well."

" I was nervous to take this course... because it is a bit of information that can be hard to grasp. However, the instruct[or] is very knowledgeable and an exceptional professor within his field...I liked that you truly had to stay engaged to his content in order to be successful and it wasn't a free ride for those who did not truly earn it. "

"hiz ð mæn"

Spring 2019

Phonology

"Even though I was constantly worried about understanding the course matter, he always ensured that I knew what was being discussed. Even though linguistics is very difficult for me, I feel like he helped me understand everything and made the course very manageable."

" He is one of the most amazing teachers/people at tech. "

"Dr. Braver does an excellent job of making Phonology fun and interesting, despite how challenging the material is."

Language in a Multicultural America

"Professor Braver is a well rounded and engaging teacher. He seems to make even the most dry subjects bearable. I would most certainly recommend him to another student."

" Words cannot explain how grateful I am to Professor Braver. He is an excellent lecturer, mentor, and person in general. He made learning a topic that was new to me absolutely fun and enjoyable. He is also very understanding when it comes to personal conflicts outside of class that may conflict with his assignments. "

"I like the way the material was presented and how the class was run. I thought the homework assignments were good ways to test how well the students learned the material. I also enjoyed how much class participation was asked for. The only constructive criticism I have is that sometimes the class would go to fast and it was hard to take efficient notes."

" I did not expect to like this class and it was one of my favorites. It was really informative and I learned a lot about language. "

Fall 2018

Structure of Sign Languages G (Hybrid online/face-to-face)

"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

(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."