

**Language Emergence & Language Evolution (Ling 3798)**  
**Evaluations for Matthew L. Hall, Fall 2015**

*Note: UConn only conducts formal evaluations in courses with enrollment of 5 or more. This advanced seminar had 3 undergraduates plus 1 doctoral student auditor. Students were therefore invited to complete informal course evaluations by writing the department chair, who then anonymized the comments and passed them to me.*

Submitted anonymously to department chair:

Overall a great course! I liked the final paper on a topic we didn't cover. Dr Hall did a great job making suggestions for what we could talk about throughout the first half of the class. I really liked the day that we were asked to make arguments for/against protosign and he took the opposite side of the argument. That is a great skill to have in academia overall and one that I feel like isn't done enough in undergraduate classes, and this is a great topic for that since there are so many opposing sides on the issues!

I would consider splitting the course into two, I feel like there was a lot more that Dr Hall wanted to talk about on both topics. I really liked having all of the different guest lectures, but I might consider doing them every other week all semester or else having the class twice a week so that there is a class to discuss readings and stuff.

It was also really helpful (as much of a pain as it could be at the time) that he always asked us to send in questions on readings. That is another thing that I feel like professors assume is not a hard task, but you have to understand the reading at some level to be able to ask intelligible questions about it and it made me pay a lot more attention when reading. It was really hard to come up with questions sometimes but I'd never really been asked to think that way when reading in a class before. Overall a really great class! Five stars!

Emailed directly to me:

For better or worse, here's my paper. Your class was, without a doubt, the most interesting, rewarding, and entertaining classes I've ever taken (which is definitely saying something, since my preferred wake up time is usually closer to noon). I hope you have a wonderful holiday!