# Module 2: The Research Process in Linguistic Anthropology

## Introduction

Last week, I discussed the ways in which linguistic anthropologists understand and conceptualize language as deeply intertwined with social life. We learned about how linguistic anthropology differs from linguistics. Finally, I introduced four key concepts that will guide our understanding of course material from now until the end of the term. This week, we will look at the “nuts and bolts” aspect of linguistic anthropology: how linguistic anthropologists design their research methodologies and gather and analyze their data. In our f2f (face-to-face) meeting, we will address any questions you might have thus far about the course and course materials, and watch the film “A World of Gestures” that considers nonverbal communication around the world.

## Objectives

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

* Describe the linguistic anthropological research process.
* Outline the most commonly used research and analytical methodologies in linguistic anthropology.
* Identify the ethical challenges faced by linguistic anthropologists and explain how these are addressed.
* Formulate and analyze a research question.

## Time Management

This course is designed to maximize benefits gained from our weekly f2f meeting. In order for our class meeting to enhance and further deepen your understanding of course materials and help you achieve our module objectives, I suggest you manage your time wisely. An efficient example of how you can best utilize your time for this course is as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Read assigned reading and module content |
| Tuesday | Finish assigned reading and module content |
| Wednesday | Original research question due in the weekly graded discussion |
| Thursday | First f2f meeting of the semester |
| Friday | Peer analysis of research question due by midnight tonight |

## Required Readings

This week, you will complete the following readings. Please do the reading as you complete the module content. You must have the required reading done prior to our f2f class meeting on Thursday.

Ahearn, Laura. 2012. *Living Language*. “Ch. 2: The Research Process in Linguistic Anthropology.”

Ribeiro, Gustavo. 2006. ["IRB's are the Tip of the Iceberg: State Regulation, Academic Freedom, and Methodological Issues"](http://www.anthrosource.net/Abstract.aspx?issn=0094-0496&volume=33&issue=4&doubleissueno=0&article=234743&suppno=0&jstor=False&cyear=2006) *American Ethnologist (3)529-531.*