Methods in Linguistic Anthropology

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Language is a facility unique to humans that provides the structure and agency for people to communicate and interact; it is both an abstract system of symbols and one that is grounded in culture, gender, ethnicity, power and ideology. Linguistic anthropology is the study of the multifaceted relationship between language and culture and this course aims to explore the multiple methodologies that exist for exploring these connections. The goal for this course is for students to gain an understanding of linguistic anthropology and its methods, as well as acquire experience in planning, executing and analyzing a research project that focuses on language in interaction. All students will be responsible for pursuing a project of their choosing that focuses on linguistic interaction in any language, using one or more of the methods discussed in class.