

ENGL 7/8507: Empirical Methods of Linguistics Research

Research is the process of systematically finding answers to questions. Asking and attempting to answer questions is the cornerstone of education and academic inquiry. This is what it means to 'study' any topic: to ask questions and seek out answers. The goal of this course is to prepare you to be able to formulate effective and meaningful research questions and to understand how to go about finding answers to them. We will discuss important concepts in research design and research methods. This will include discussion of software resources, analytical tools, survey design, interview strategies, ethical concerns, and experimental design. The course will be conducted partially as a seminar and partially as a workshop as we will work together to design applied linguistics studies. It is my goal for you to finish the semester with a greater understanding of all of the different ways to approach the questions you are interested in researching and with the tools needed for you to design and carry out high quality research in applied linguistics.