Caribbean & African Languages: Social History, Language, Literature, And Education

Morgan Dalphinis
See what it's like to major in African Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics and learn what a sample college curriculum includes and the careers you'll be prepared for after graduation. Africa has eight-hundred-plus spoken languages, fifty of which are spoken by a half a million people or more, some of which are spoken only by small tribes. Those interested in linguistics -- the study of the units, structure, nature, and development of languages, as well as the relationships between different languages and language branches -- will find Africa an especially rich area of concentration. African Languages, Literatures and Linguistics majors learn one or more languages from the following families: Afro-asiatic, Niger-Kordofanian, Nilo-Saharan, and Khoisan. In discussions of language and education, language is usually defined as a shared set of verbal codes, such as English, Spanish, Mandarin, French, and Swahili. But language can also be defined as a generic, communicative phenomenon, especially in descriptions of instruction. In both science and social studies, for example, students may encounter the same pattern of reading a textbook chapter and answering end-of-chapter questions. Learning through Language. Learning in classrooms is primarily accomplished through language. African-American Language and Classroom Education. The lack of education about language and about language variation may explain, in part, the strong popular reaction to the issue of African-American Language and classroom education.