

College of Human Sciences Research focus areas for 2025

# African Languages

* African Languages and the Macro-Environment
* African Languages Linguistics
* African Languages Literature (Traditional and Modern)
* Children’s Literature
* Computational Morphology
* Folklore
* Language Planning and Language Policy
* Onomastics
* Terminology and Lexicography
* Translation and Interpretation

# Afrikaans & Theory of Literature

* **Afrikaans Literature:**
  + Afrikaans Prose
  + Afrikaans Poetry
  + Afrikaans Drama
  + The Fourth Genre: Literary Nonfiction
  + Literary Historiography
  + Afrikaans Gay Literature
  + Queer Studies
  + Cultural Studies
  + Women’s studies
  + Animal and Plant Studies
  + Ecocriticism
  + The Detective Novel/Crime Fiction
  + The Horror Genre
  + Ghost Literature

# Afrikaans Linguistics:

* + Document Design
  + Behaviour Change Communication
  + Cognitive Semantics
  + Language and Law
  + Corpus Linguistics
  + Discourse Analysis
  + Semantics
  + Pragmatics
  + Sociolinguistics
  + Forensic Linguistics
  + Language Performance
  + Translation Studies

# Theory of Literature:

* + General Literary Theory
  + Critical Theory
  + Genre Theory
  + Narratology
  + Cultural Studies
  + Comparative Literature
  + South African and African Literary Studies
  + South African Drama and Theatre Studies
  + Soweto Theatre
  + African Humanism and Decoloniality
  + African Imaginary and Identities
  + Postcolonialism
  + Posthumanism
  + Animal Studies
  + Ecocriticism
  + Masculinities Studies

**RESEARCH AREAS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ART AND MUSIC**

**Students applying in the Department of Art and Music must complete the departmental questionnaire below and upload it with their application for admission:**

****

# Music:

* Musicology
* Philosophy, especially as related to Embodiment and Cognition
* Jazz Studies
* Music in South Africa
* Phenomenology of Performance
* Learning Theory
* Improvisation
* Critical Theory
* Philosophy of Mind
* Semiotics
* Phenomenology
* Music Cognition and Perception
* Africanist Ethnomusicology
* Historical Musicology
* Music Education
* Afrikaans Music in Twentieth Century South Africa
* Jewish Music in Twentieth Century South Africa
* South African Art Music Composition and Practice
* Composition: Classical, Popular, Electronic, Film Music
* Theory of Film Music
* Music Analysis

# Visual Arts:

* Aesthetics of the Sublime
* African Art and Cultural History
* Altermodernism
* Animation
* Art Education
* Art in the Urban / Public Domain
* Collaborative Art Projects
* Comics Studies
* Contemporary Painting/Drawing/Sculpture
* Curatorship and Professional Exhibition Practice
* Curriculum Development in Visual Art
* Digital and New Media Art
* Esoteric Symbolism
* Greco-Roman Mythology
* Interactive Art
* Intermedia Practice
* Internet Art
* Installation Art
* Narratives and Framed Narratives
* Neuroscience, Cognitive Turn and Pattern Recognition
* Posthumanism
* Practice-Led Research,
* Process-Driven Art
* Professional development of in Visual Art School teachers
* Postmodernism
* Simulation
* Site-Specific Art Practices
* Space / Place / Site
* Theory of Mind
* Transmedia Narratives
* Traumatic and Dissociative Memory
* Video Art
* Visual Narratives of Cultural Capital and Heritage

# Art History:

* Public and Visual Histories
* Critical Heritage and Museum Studies
* Social and Cultural Histories
* History of Education
* Armed struggle histories and heritages
* Spatiality, planning and urban history
* African intellectual histories and biographies
* Pan Africanism and Afrocentric studies
* Histories of African royalties (‘traditional’ leaders)
* Histories of Neocolonialism in Africa
* East Asian Modern History
* African Economic History
* Histories of Imperialism in Africa
* Historical methodology
* World historiography
* African historiography
* South African historiography
* Postmodernism and the construction of the past
* Decoloniality and history
* Historical discourses of colonialism
* Colonial encounters in southern Africa
* The construction of segregation and apartheid
* Struggles against segregation and apartheid
* South Africa’s democratic history
* Gender history in southern Africa
* Biographical approaches to history
* History of Mining
* History of Science and Technology (South Africa)

# Contract supervisors:

* Identity Politics
* Contemporary Performance Art
* Trans-Humanism
* Fetishism
* Neurotheology – Rituals and Pain as Mediators of Psychophysical Healing Responses
* Neo-Baroque Aesthetics
* Phenomenology
* Hermeneutics
* Altermodernism
* Contemporary Art-Making – Collaborative Community Art Projects, Installation Art and Sculpture
* All Fields of Photography
* Quantitative Research in the Areas of:
* Jazz
  + Music Education
  + Music and Medicine
  + Music and Psychology
  + Community Music Outreach
  + ​
* Drawing
* Printmaking
* Alternative Photography Processes
* Labour Intensive Installations

# Anthropology

* + African epistemologies
  + Critical Anthropology
  + Cultural Heritage
  + Decolonial Epistemologies
  + Educational Anthropology
  + Economic Anthropology
  + Environmental Anthropology
  + Feminist Anthropology
  + Historical Anthropology
  + Medical Anthropology
  + Ritual
  + Sex and Gender
  + The Anthropology of Development
  + The Anthropology of Disability
  + The Anthropology of Organisations
  + The Anthropology of Space and Place
  + Urban Anthropology
  + Urban Parks

# Archaeology

* + 19th- and 20th-Century Material Culture Studies
  + Archaeological Heritage Management
  + Archaeologies of Conflict
  + Archaeologies of Identity
  + Archaeologies of Slavery and the Slave Trade
  + Archaeozoology / Archaeofaunal Studies
  + Colonial Frontiers and Culture Contact Studies
  + Early State Formation in Southern Africa
  + Historical Archaeology, with a focus on Southern and West Africa
  + Landscape Archaeology
  + Mission Archaeology
  + Pre-Colonial (Iron Age) Farming Societies in Southern Africa
  + The Archaeology of Food and Foodways
  + The Comparative Use of Written, Oral & Archaeological Sources
  + The Middle and Later Stone Age in Southern Africa

# Biblical & Ancient Studies A Classics Unit

The broad focus area for Classics is the **literature and history of Greco-Roman Antiquity**. Within that, the following:

* Gender in Greco-Roman antiquity
* Identity in the ancient world
* Military historiography
* Power and empowerment in antiquity
* North Africa during the Greco-Roman period.
* Classical Reception Studies
* Greek vase painting

# B Old Testament Unit

* Biblical archaeology
* History of Israelite religion
* Prophets
* Religion of Israel
* Hermeneutics
* Historical, early and late Persian period
* Minor prophets
* Theme: Perpetrators in OT
* Judges and the female body
* Exegesis of the Old Testament
* Counter culture rhetoric
* Wisdom literature
* Cognitive science
* ODL teaching
* Theological Education
* Biblical characters
* Decoloniality
* Racism
* HIV AIDS and religion healing practices
* Wisdom
* Contextual studies
* Qohelet
* Proverbs
* Jeremiah
* Esther
* Chronicles
* Judges
* African biblical hermeneutics
* Land restitution and biblical text contextual studies
* Biblical Archaeo-zoology
* Textual criticism
* Pentateuch criticism
* Early Persian Period
* Rhetorical criticism of the Bible
* Bosadi interpretation of the Bible
* Sexuality and Hebrew Bible
* Gender and Hebrew Bible
* African Biblical Hermeneutics
* Bible and black theology of liberation
* Bible and Africanisation
* Ancient Israelite Wisdom Literature
* Bible and ecology

# D New Testament Unit

* The Historical Origins and Formation of Christianity in the Early Centuries;
* Critical Interpretation of Early Christian Literature in Ancient and Modern Contexts;
* The Reception of the New Testament throughout the Centuries;
* Gender, Race, and Slavery in the New Testament and Early Christianity;
* Religious experience and literacy in the New Testament and Early Christianity.
* Health and disability in the NT and Early Christianity;
* Space, art and architecture in Early Christianity;
* Anthropological and Neuroscientific readings of early Christian literature.
* Archaeology of the New Testament and Early Christianity
* Sexuality of the New Testament and Early Christianity
* Historical Jesus Research and the Jesus Movement
* Pauline writings
* Johannine Writings
* Transdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Religion
* Theory and Method in the Study of New Testament and Early Christianity

***Christian Spirituality***

* Biblical Spirituality
* The Old Testament and Christian Spirituality
* Post-Secularism in the Third Millennium
* The Patriarchs and the Pentateuch
* Theory of Spirituality
* The Bible and Faith Trends in the Global 21st Century
* Sexuality, Spirituality and Song of Songs
* Early Christian Spirituality (New Testament and the Early Church)
* The Hermeneutics of Early Christian Spirituality
* Contemporary Christian Spirituality
* The Johannine Literature
* Socio-Rhetorical Criticism as Research Methodology
* Early Christian Experiences, Devotion and Discipleship
* The Bible and Faith Trends in Church Ministry
* Christian Spirituality in African Contexts
* Christian Spirituality in Catholic Context
* Christian Spirituality in Tshwane Contexts
* African Spirituality
* Womanist Spirituality
* Feminist Spirituality
* Black Spirituality
* Spiritualities of the Global South
* Decoloniality

# Church History

* Early Church History
* Early African Christianity: Egypt, Ethiopia, Nubia
* Christianity in Africa
* South African Church History
* South African mainline Churches and denominations
* African Independent Churches
* Early and late Middle ages
* Ecumenism
* World Christianity
* The Crusades
* Christianity and persecutions
* The ecumenical councils
* Mystical, monastic, scholastic theology
* Christianity and Renaissance
* Reformation
* Christianity and the enlightenment and secularisation
* Christianity and slavery
* Christianity and colonialism
* Women in Christianity
* Church Fathers and Church Mothers
* Influential Christians
* How Christianity changed the world
* The Byzantine Church
* Christianity in modernity and postmodernity
* Significance of Church History for the Modern Church and Society
* Influence of Christianity on the South African Society
* Christian Education
* Historiography
* Church State Relations
* Catholic History
* Protestant History
* Mission, State and Land
* Teaching Theology
* Open Distance Learning and Theology

# Communication Science

**Focus areas in media studies** (formulated generically),

* Cultural studies
* Decolonisation
* Film studies
* Gender studies
* Health communication
* Indigenous language and media
* International communication
* Journalism and media genres
* Media (and) representation (this would include, for example, a sub-field of feminism or gender studies)
* Media and community
* Media and democracy
* Media and development
* Media and / in international communication
* Media audiences (media reception and use)
* Media management
* Media policy and regulation
* Media sociology (the media in/and society)
* Memorial (memory) and trauma studies
* New media and the new media environment
* ODeL related media research
* Political communication
* Popular culture
* Telecommunications & Information Policy
* Television studies
* Media research methodology

# Organisational Communication

* Concept of Learning Organisations and organisational learning
* Applied communication
* Corporate communication
* Internal communication/ intra-organisational communication / integrated organisational communication
* Management communication
* Marketing communication and integrated marketing communication
* Organisational Communication (general)
* Organisational discourse
* Political communication / public relations
* Public relations/image management
* Strategic communication
* Corporate Social Investment and Corporate Social Responsibility
* Corporate Governance
* Development Communication
* Online Communication
* Consumer Behaviour
* Public Health Communication
* Tourism Communication/Marketing
* Social Entrepreneurship
* Decoloniality
* Stakeholder relationship communication and management
* Leadership
* Crisis Communication
* Government and State Communication
* Stakeholder Engagement, Public Participation and Community Engagement
* Brand Communication

# Development Studies

* **Development Debates, issues and theories, including, but not limited to:**

Decolonial thought as development; neo-colonialism in development; post-colonial debates; socio-economic reforms as tools for development; indigenous knowledge systems; Afrocentricity as development; Alternative strategies and thoughts for development; social justice and social exclusion; emerging methodologies in Development Studies research; development as a tool against poverty, deprivation and inequality; population, people and development; development aid; religion and spirituality in development; community development, local economic development

# Identity and Development, including, but not limited to:

Gender; feminisms; intersectionality, race issues in development; youth and youth issues in development; the aged; migration; refugees; xenophobia; redistribution empowerment as development; men and masculinities in development

# Governance and Development, including, but not limited to:

Good governance; social justice; effective collaborations in development; service delivery; participation; states, labour and markets in development; governance and development amidst pandemics; social policy; housing policy and practice; land administration/ land development

# Sustainability, Development Policy, and Development Practices, including, but not limited to

Climate change; monitoring and evaluation; indigenous knowledge; rural development, urban development; environment and development; political economy of water, land or other resource in development; politics of sustainability; micro-finance; entrepreneurship; village renewal processes; sustainable development goals

# Human Security and Development, including, but not limited to:

Human rights issues in development; wars and political conflict; peace; food security; forced migration; human trafficking; water; health security; HIV and AIDS; sexual and reproductive health

# English Studies

* Academic Literacy and Multidisciplinary Language Support
* African Literature
* African-American Literature
* African Women’s Writing
* American Literature
* Autobiography (Self-Writing)
* Black Atlantic Studies and Revisionist Migrant Cultural Transnationalism in the Wake of Globalization
* Crime fiction
* Children’s and young adult Literature
* Christianity / Religion and Literature
* Comparative Literature (English-French)
* Creative Writing
* Cultural Studies
* Development Education
* Diaspora and Literary-Historical Study of Representations of Genocide in African Literature
* Discourse Analysis
* Ecocriticism
* Embodied Memory
* Embodiment and phenomenology
* English as Medium of Instruction in Multilingual Societies
* English Language Studies
* English Language Teacher Education
* English Teaching / English in Education
* Fantasy Literature
* Female Writers of the Romantic and Victorian Period
* Feminist Speculative Fiction
* Feminist Theory
* Film, Media and Television
* Folklore, Fairy Tales and Myth
* Gender and HIV / and Migration / and Language Impact
* Gender Studies and Women’s Writing
* Gothic Fiction
* Horror
* Harlem Renaissance
* Historiography and Literary History of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Natal; Iconography and Representation of the Irish Wolfhound in Text and Visual Media, c.1750-Present
* Language and Power
* Language Ideologies and Power
* Language, Literacies and Identity
* Language Socialisation
* Literacies in General
* Literacy in ESL
* Literature and Language
* Literature / Language Instruction
* Literary Representations of Terrorism & Racial Profiling in Popular Culture
* Literary Theory
* Magical Realism
* Medieval literature and medievalism
* Modernism
* Multilingualism
* Nineteenth-Century Writing
* Old English and Middle English / Medieval Studies
* Online Learning (and Mobile Learning)
* Onomastics
* Poetry
* Popular Culture
* Postcolonialism
* Postmodern and/or contemporary drama and theatre
* Postmodernism
* Programme Evaluation
* Promoting Accuracy in Written English for the Work Environment
* Psychoanalytical Readings of Fantastic Fiction
* Queer Theory
* Reading and Writing Skills (Education)
* Renaissance Writing
* Representations of Violence in South African Literature
* Romantics
* Science Fiction
* Sociolinguistics
* South African Literature
* Space and place in literature
* Systemic Functional Linguistics
* TEFL
* Temporality
* TESOL
* (Trans)Cultural Memory
* Trauma and Testimony
* Twentieth Century Literature
* Victorian Literature
* War, Conflict and Narratives

**RESEARCH AREAS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STUDIES**

# N/A 1 Quality healthcare

* Preventive and promotive care (health promotion)
* Disease management
* Maternal and child healthcare
* Mental health
* Determinants of health
* Quality assurance, patient safety and enhancement
* Indigenous knowledge systems
* Men’s health
* Health equity and access to care
* Ethical and legal issues in Nursing
* Technology and innovation in Nursing
* Nursing leadership

# N/A 2 Scholarship of teaching and learning

* Health sciences education
* Pedagogical studies
* Open distance education
* Online learning
* Quality assurance and enhancement in education

# N/A 3 Nursing management

* Health services management and health informatics
* Healthcare management and health policy analysis, development and governance
* Health systems strengthening

# N/A 4 Public Health

* Health and Wellness in the Workplace
* Women’s Health and Reproductive Health
* Public health governance
* Climate change and Health and health-related impact

# History

* Various Relevant Aspects of the Economic, Social, Cultural and Political History of South Africa
* British History
* German History
* Select Themes from World History and Intellectual History

# Information Science

* NA1 - Knowledge generation and human capital development in response to the needs of South Africa and the African continent
* NA2 - The promotion of democracy, human rights and responsible citizenship
* NA5 - Open and Distance Learning

Specific focus areas relevant to the Department of Information Science include:

* Archival Science
* Archives and Records Management
* Diplomatics
* Digital Records Forensic
* Bibliometrics, Infometrics and Webometrics
* Social Informatics
* Information Sources
* Children's Literature and Services
* Library and Information Science Education and Training
* Current Trends in Library and Information Science
* e-Records and e-Government
* Indigenous Knowledge Systems
* Information Access, Information Use, Information Behaviour and Information Seeking
* User Studies and User Education
* Information for Development and Change
* Information and Society / Culture
* Information Society
* Information Literacy and Family Literacy
* Information Organisation, Representation and Retrieval
* Information Dissemination
* Information Philosophy
* Info Ethics
* Information and Knowledge Management
* Political Economy of Information
* Libraries and Information Centres or Agencies (School, Public, Academic, Private,

National and Provincial Libraries)

* Research Trends in LIS
* Infopreneurship
* ICTs in Library and Information Science
* Research Data Management
* Big Data Management
* Data Curatorship
* Information Governance
* Artificial Intelligence
* Information in the Post Truth Era
* Institutional Repository Management

# Institute for Gender Studies

* + Gender in Society
  + Gender-Based Violence
  + Gender in/and the Family
  + Gender and Religion in Africa
  + Literary Genres
  + Science Fiction
  + Fantasy
  + Folklore
  + Fairy Tales
  + Theoretical Approaches
    - Gender Theories: Feminist Theory, Masculinity Studies, Queer Theory, New Materialist Feminism
    - Decolonial and postcolonial theories of gender

# Linguistics & Modern Languages

* + General linguistics
  + Syntax
  + Morphosyntax
  + Phonology
  + Morphophonology
  + Discourse analysis
  + Systemic Functional Linguistics
  + Cognitive linguistics
  + Language and human cognition
  + Cognitive semantics
  + Semiotics
  + Metaphor
  + Conceptual Metaphor Theory
  + Blending
  + Cognitive pragmatics and figurative language
  + Categorization/prototype theory
  + Semantic networks
  + Embodied realism
  + Metonymy
  + Image schemas
  + Mental spaces
  + Sociolinguistics
  + Language planning
  + Language variation
  + Language contact
  + Language and gender
  + Language and power
  + Language ideologies
  + Language and identity
  + Language socialisation
  + Multilingualism
  + Discourse analysis
  + Political discourse
  + Cultural linguistics
  + Media studies
  + Multimodal and multisemiotic discourse analysis
  + Linguistic landscapes
  + Psycholinguistics
  + Speech/Language production
  + Speech/Language processing
  + Language comprehension
  + Language and the brain
  + Semantic/lexical networks
  + Language acquisition (infants and children)
  + Language development
  + Second Language Acquisition
  + Language disorders (Specific Language Impairment; Aphasia; Autism; Apraxia)
  + Reading disorders (Dyslexia)
  + Bi-(multi)lingual language acquisition
  + Experimental psycholinguistics
  + Applied Linguistics (i.e. Second Language Learning and Teaching)
  + Multilingualism in education
  + Language planning in education
  + Second/additional language instruction
  + Second/additional language learning
  + Second/additional language literacy instruction
  + Second/additional language intervention
  + Reading and/or Writing in an additional language
  + Assessment in second/additional language teaching
  + Online/blended/mobile language learning
  + Language learning disorders
  + Reading disorders
  + Socio-affective factors in additional language learning
  + Vocabulary learning in a second/additional language
  + Translation Studies
  + Corpus-based Translation Studies
  + Discourse analysis
  + Cognitive approaches to translation
  + Metaphor Translation
  + Ethics in translation
  + Lexicography
  + Terminology
  + Translator training
  + Translatorial prefaces
  + Interpreting Studies
  + Court Interpreting
  + Translation paratext
  + History of translation
  + Computer-Aided Translation
  + Translation Competence
  + French Literature and Language
  + Teaching French as a Foreign Language.
  + French Argotology
  + French Medieval Literature
  + World Mythology and Folklore
  + Portuguese Literature and Language
  + Portuguese second and heritage language studies
  + Portuguese linguistics
  + Portuguese cultural studies
  + History of the Portuguese language
  + Brazilian cultural studies
  + Lusophone African cultural studies
  + Modernist Portuguese literature
  + Contemporary Portuguese literature
  + Brazilian literature
  + Lusophone African literatures
  + Discourse analysis
  + Narratology
  + Comparative literature
  + The novels of José Saramago
  + The novels of Paulina Chiziane
  + The work of Mia Couto
  + The novels of José Eduardo Agualusa

# Missiology

* + Theology of Mission
  + Ecumenical Missiology
  + Policy Contextualisation
  + Models of Liberation Theology
  + Intercultural Theology
  + Mission and Transformation
  + Missional Hermeneutics
  + Missiological Theories
  + Theology of Mission
  + Women, Gender and Mission
  + Women’s Theologies
  + Faith-Based Communities and Sustainable Development
  + Urban Ministry
  + African Renaissance and the Unity of Africa
  + Evangelism and Mass Media / TV Broadcast
  + Third Wave Movement / Christianity
  + African Theology
  + Intercultural Communication of the Gospel
  + Missional Theology
  + Urban Mission
  + African Theology
  + Children and Youth Movements
  + Anti-Racism and Reconciliation
  + Social Media
  + Emerging and Missional Church
  + Theology of Mission
  + Mission and Power
  + Mission and Unity
  + Integral Mission
  + Community Economic Development
  + Urban Ministry
  + Mission and Social
  + ​

# Practical Theology

* + Youth Ministry
  + Faith Formation and Spiritual Development in Adolescents
  + The Impact of Faith and / or Spirituality On Youth Identity Formation and Development
  + The Role of Family, Culture and Youth Sub-Cultures in Youth Socialisation
  + The Profession and / or State of Youth Work in South Africa
  + Pastoral Care and Counselling
  + integration of Psychology and Theology
  + Marriage and Premarital Issues and Gender Studies in African Context (Particularly Women’s Rights)
  + Africanisation of Pastoral Care and Counselling
  + Unity and Injustices within Reformed Churches
  + Ministry in the Context of Poverty
  + Community Development
  + Church Leadership
  + Management and Administration
  + Contextual Practical Theology in Africa
  + Christian Faith and Moral Formation Educational Practices
  + Life Narrative Research
  + Multicultural Teaching and Learning
  + Spiritual and Moral Leadership
  + Liberation – Contextual Practical Theology
  + Empirical Research in Theology
  + The Methodology of Practical Theology
  + A Contextual Approach to Practical Theology
  + Practical Theology and Action Theories
  + Practical Theology and Public Theology
  + Human Rights and Religion
  + Religious Communication
  + Ritual and Liturgical Studies
  + Celebration and Worship
  + Worship and Spiritual Formation
  + Worship and Identity
  + Worship and Leadership
  + Multicultural worship
  + Hymnology, religious songs and Church Music
  + Homiletics and Hermeneutics
  + Liturgical Aesthetics
  + Worship, singing and ecological issues
  + Religious singing in the public sphere
  + Space in religious practices
  + The Church's Diaconal Service
  + Christian Care, the Christian Ministry to the Sick in the African Context
  + Religious Education
  + Human Rights and justice in worship and religious formation
  + African Women and Widowhood Rites
  + Ecclesiology in African Christian Perspective
  + Religious / Christian Education
  + Spiritual and Faith Development
  + Theological Education in South Africa
  + Spirituality in the Workplace / Theological Education
  + Ministerial Training / Clergy Formation
  + Diversity Issues in Christian Communities

# Systematic Theology

* Christology
* Doctrine of God
* Doctrine of Creation
* Ecclesiology
* Soteriology
* Eschatology
* Theological Anthropology
* Eco-theology
* African Theology
* Black Theology
* Liberation Theology
* Feminist Theology
* Womanist Theology
* Constructive Theology
* Political Theology
* Public Theology
* Contextual Theology
* Historical Theology
* Theology of Ministry

# Philosophy

* Social Philosophy
* Philosophy of Education
* Aesthetics
* Phenomenology
* Epistemology African Philosophy
* Critical Reasoning
* Philosophy of Culture
* Ethics
* Applied Ethics
* Bioethics
* Environmental Ethics
* Political Philosophy
* Metaphysics
* Logic and artificial Intelligence
* History and Philosophy of Science
* Cosmology
* Ubuntu Philosophy
* Philosophy of Religion
* Medieval Philosophy
* Thomism
* Moral Philosophy
* Environmental Philosophy
* Philosophy of Liberation
* Philosophy of Race
* Feminist Philosophy
* Minority rights and Philosophies
* Science and Religion

# Religious Studies

* African Indigenous Religion(s)
* African Indigenous Religion(s) and Christianity in Africa
* African indigenous religion(s), Christianity and Islam (co-existence of in Africa)
* African Indigenous Religions and Human Rights
* African indigenous Religion and same sexualities
* African traditional healing
* Buddhism in South Africa
* Buddhist Meditation
* Buddhist and Hindu Philosophy
* Buddhist Religious Ritual
* Christianity and African culture
* Critical Theories of Religion (Comparative and Historical, Colonial and Post-Colonial, Sociological and Anthropological)
* Early Christianity within its Jewish and Greco-Roman Contexts
* Hindu Meditation/Yoga
* Human Rights, Constitutional Law and Religion
* Islam and African Culture
* Material Religion: Objects and Senses in Religions
* Metaphysical Thought
* Modern Buddhist history (c. 1850 – Current)
* Modernism and Religion
* New Religious Movements – 19th century
* New Religious Movements – 20th and 21st century
* Politics of Religion
* Postmodernism and Religion
* Religion and Education (Policy and Curriculum Design)
* Religion and Gender (Media representations and religious practices)
* Religion and Marriage Practices
* Religion Education, Human Rights and Values
* Religion, Civil Society and Technology
* Religion, Conflict and Politics (with Specialization in Gramsci Thought)
* Religion, Curriculum Development and Technology
* Religious Hermeneutics
* Religious nationalism and Violence
* Representations of Religion in Contemporary Literature
* Research Methodology in Religious Studies
* Ritual, Ideology and Power
* Western Philosophy of Religion
* Religion, Curriculum Development and Technology
* Religious Hermeneutics
* Religious nationalism and Violence
* Representations of Religion in Contemporary Literature
* Research Methodology in Religious Studies
* Ritual, Ideology and Power
* Western Philosophy of Religion

# Arabic

* Arabic Syntax and Morphology
* Modern Arabic Poetry
* Teaching of Arabic in a Non-Native Environment
* Teaching of Arabic in a Non-Native Environment
* Translations of Arabic Religious Texts
* Translations of Classical Arabic Literary Texts
* Translations of Modern Arabic Religious Texts

# Islamic Studies

* Biographies of Selected Muslims
* Classical Islamic History
* Classical Philosophy in Islam
* Contemporary Islamic Thought, Philosophy and Law
* Hadith – the Study of the Muslim Prophetic Tradition
* History of Islam in Southern Africa
* Islam in South Africa
* Islamic Banking and Finance
* Islamic Doctrinal Theology
* Islamic, modernity and Secularism
* Muslim Minorities in the West
* Qur’anic Commentary and Exegesis
* Qur’anic Hermeneutics
* Sufism (Islamic Mysticism)

# Political Sciences

* + African Politics
  + Decoloniality
  + African Constitutions and Constitutionalism
  + Selected African Electoral Systems and Elections
  + Selected African Governing and Opposition Political Parties
  + Selected African Political Economy Issues
  + African Political, Regional and Economic Institutions
  + African Political Thought
  + African Politics In Comparative Perspective – Selected Countries
  + African State Building, Political Leadership and Environmental Politics

# Politics

* + - Black Consciousness
    - Civil Society
    - Constitutional Law and Politics
    - Democracy, Democratisation and Governance
    - Elections, Electoral Studies and Electoral Systems
    - Environmental Politics
    - Epistemology and Methodological Issues
    - Human Rights Issues
    - Human Security and Security Issues
    - Nationalism and Separatism
    - Political Conflict Resolution: Theories, Transitions and Constitutional Negotiations
    - Political Parties and Party Systems
    - South African Politics
    - Sovereignty
    - Sports and Politics
    - Transitional Justice
    - Separation of Power

# International Politics

* + - Foreign Policy
    - origin Policy of African States
    - Foreign Policy Decision-Making
    - Diplomacy
    - International Organisations
    - International Political Economy
    - International Relations Theory
    - Military Coups
    - Nuclear Energy
    - Environmental Politics
    - Political Leadership
    - Security

# Psychology

Theme one: Mental Health

* Student wellness in the context of current South African and global realities
* Employee wellness in the context of current South African and global realities
* Community wellness and resilience in the context of current South African and global realities
* Therapeutic contexts and lived experiences
* Health, well-being, and developmental psychology
* Integration of mind, body, and spirit
* Forensic psychology
* Emergency services

Theme 2: Decolonialism

* African psychologies
* Indigenous epistemologies
* Decolonization using indigenous language
* Coloniality in naming practices
* Gender through a decolonial lens
* Decolonial feminism

Theme 3: Social justice and inclusion

* Prevalence and psychosocial impact of hate crimes
* Feminist voices
* The psychology of sexuality and gender in Africa
* Advancement of LGBTI+ health and well-being
* Affirmative of LGBTI+ psychological practices
* Corrections and incarceration
* Crime and violence prevention/ trauma intervention
* Diversity and social transformation

Theme 4: Open distance e-learning (ODeL)

* Teaching and learning
* Teaching and learning psychological research
* Higher education
* Distance education
* Open distance e-learning
* Students as knowledge producers

Theme 5: Social Psychology and Environmental Psychology

* Social, racial, and gender issues
* Relationships between individuals and social groups
* Personal and social identities
* Cognitive representations of social categories
* Intergroup attitudes, emotions, and behavior in social change situations
* Interpersonal and intergroup communication
* Human-induced climate change

# Sociology

* Industrial and Economic sociology
* Labour Processes, Marx’s Social Theory, Class Analysis
* Social justice and economic rights
* Sociology of Developing Countries
* Industrial Restructuring
* Sociology of Migration
* Social capital
* Social Theory
* Globalisation Studies
* Sociology of autobiography and biography
* Gender Studies and Gender based Violence
* Sociology of Health and Wellness
* Social Behavioural Aspects of HIV/AIDS
* Medical Sociology and Health
* Policy and Programme Evaluation
* Men Studies, Manhood and Well-being in Africa
* Decoloniality Studies and Indigenous knowledge systems
* Representation and Leadership Studies
* Fourth Industrial Revolution
* Energy Studies and Environmental Sociology
* Student Support
* Sociology of the Media and Information flows
* Political Journalism, News Agencies

# Social Work

* Vulnerable, Marginalised Groups, Populations at Risk
* Social Issues / Problems
* Social Development
* The Social Work Profession – management and supervision
* Social Work Education and Training in the CODeL context
* Specific / Specialised Methods of Social Work Intervention
* Specialised Fields of Social Work (Adoption social work, Probation social work, Occupation social work, Clinical social work)
* Employee health and wellness/ employee assistance services
* Social entrepreneurship, Technology innovations and Strategies in Social Work
* Research Approaches and Specialised Research Methods
* Quality management and enhancement of social services
* Social Work Services and adverse events

# Research Institute for Theology & Religion

* African Christian Cultures and Religious Philosophies
* Science and Religion
* Ecumenical and Public Theologies
* Religion, Development and Social Change