College of Human Sciences
Research focus areas for 2019

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 Literature (Prose and Poetry)
  - South African Drama
  - Contemporary Drama and Theatre Studies
  - Drama and Theatre Semiotics
  - Children’s and Youth Literature
  - Afrikaans Gay Literature
  - Queer Studies
  - Cultural Studies
  - Literary Nonfiction
  - Literary Historiography
  - Literature and Knowledge Systems
  - Ecocriticism
  - Creative Writing

- Afrikaans Linguistics
  - Document Design
  - Behaviour Change Communication
  - Cognitive Semantics
  - Lexicography
  - Sociolinguistics
  - Forensic Linguistics
  - Language Performance
- Theory of Literature
  - Genre Theory
  - General Literary Theory
  - South African Literary Studies
  - Post Colonialism
  - Comparative Literature
  - Cultural Studies
  - Animal Studies
  - Ecocriticism
  - The Work of JM Coetzee
  - The Indian Diaspora
  - Bollywood Cinema
  - Children's Literature
  - Creative Writing

Art History & Visual Arts & Musicology

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

• Art History
  o Seventeenth-Century Netherlandish Art
  o Early Modern Art in Europe
  o African Art
  o Post-Structural Perspectives on Modern and Postmodern Art and Culture
  o The Relationship between Language and Artistic Images
  o The Relationship between Metaphoric and Literal Language in Art Analysis
  o Artistic Embodiment
  o Art and Humour
  o Everyday Aesthetics
  o Environmental Aesthetics
  o South African Art and Cultural History
  o Art as Social-Critical Practice (Ideology)
  o Urban and Consumer Culture
  o The Flâneur
Research focus areas for 2019

- Women and the City
- Surveillance and the Gaze
- Interactive art
- Gender Studies
- Ideology in Visual Culture
- South African Art
- Contemporary Art

- Art Gallery
  - South African Contemporary Art Collections
  - Art Acquisition Policies
  - Art Curating
  - Culture Industry and Production
  - Participatory Practices in Museums
  - Art Education

- 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

- Critical Anthropology
- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Resource Management
- Decolonial Epistemologies
- Earthen Architecture
- Educational Anthropology
- Ethno-archaeology
- Feminist Anthropology
- Medical Anthropology
- Orality Studies
- Performance Studies
- Ritual
- Sex and Gender
- The Anthropology of Development
- 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
- The Archaeology of Food and Foodways
- Colonial Frontiers and Culture Contact Studies
- Historical Archaeology, with a focus on Southern and West Africa
- Landscape Archaeology
- Mission Archaeology
- Pre-Colonial (Iron Age) Farming Societies in Southern Africa
- Early State Formation in Southern Africa
- 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:

- Ancient philosophical schools
- Ancient Greek biography
- Gender in Roman antiquity
- North Africa during the Greco-Roman period.
- The nuclear family in Greco-Roman antiquity
- Greek and Roman Culture in Early Christianity
- Greco-Roman Religions

B  Old Testament Unit

- Biblical archaeology
- History of Israelite religion
- Prophets
- Religion of Israel
- Mission archaeology
- Historical Archaeology of 19th century in South Africa
- Albert Schweitzer
- 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
- Historiography of the Ancient Near East: pre Islamic history
- Wisdom literature
- Cognitive science
- ODL teaching
- Theological Education
- Biblical characters
- Decoloniality
- Racism
- Ecotheology
- Stewardship
- 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
• Ancient Egypt paleontology
• 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
• Judaising groups and the Bible
• Oral traditions and the biblical text

C Ancient Near Eastern Studies

• Ancient Gateways of the Near East
• Ancient Sports, Games & Recreational activities
• Cultural background of the Bible
• Western Desert of Egypt in the Persian Period
• Ancient Gateways in the Ancient Near East
• Law in the Ancient Near East
• Neo-Sumerian period
• Phoenician cities
• Pre-Dynastic Egypt
• Middle Eastern Politics
• Medicine in Ancient Egypt
• Law and civilization in Ancient Egypt
• Disabilities in Ancient Egypt
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

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
- 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
Church History

- South African Church History
- Christianity in Africa
- South African Methodism
- South African Church History
- Early Church History
- Reformation
- 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
- Mission, State and Land
- Historiography
- Early Church History
- South African Church History
- South African Baptist History
- Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Communication Science

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

- Cultural studies
- Film studies
- Health communication
- 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)
- New media and the new media environment
- ODL related media research
- Political communication
- 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

Development Studies

- Development Debates and Issues
- Gender and Development
- Governance and Development
- Sustainability, Development Policy, Practice and Development
- Human Security and Development

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
- Children’s 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
• Embodied Memory
• English as Medium of Instruction in Multilingual Societies
• English Language Studies
• English Language Teacher Education
• English Teaching / English in Education
• Female Writers of the Romantic and Victorian Period
• Feminist Speculative Fiction
• Feminist Theory
• Film, Media
• Folklore, Fairy Tales and Myth
• Gender and HIV / and Migration / and Language Impact
• Gender Studies and Women's Writing
• Gothic Fiction
• 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
• Modernism
• Multilingualism
• Nineteenth-Century Writing
• Old English and Middle English / Medieval Studies
• Online Learning (and Mobile Learning)
• Onomastics
• Poetry
• Popular Culture
• Postcolonialism
• 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
• Systemic Functional Linguistics
• TEFL
• TESOL
• (Trans)Cultural Memory
• Trauma and Testimony
• Twentieth Century Literature
• Victorian Literature

Health Studies

Health care for diverse populations
• Health systems
• Health management and governance
• Evidence based research on health
• Social determinants of health

HIV and Aids
• Trends in HIV and Aids
• Biomedical aspects of HIV
• Therapeutics in HIV
• Socio-economic, political and cultural implications of HIV and Aids

Health and Human Rights
• Responsible citizenship
• Human rights
• Psychosocial issues of vulnerable groups
• Associated illnesses and interventions

eHEALTH and eLEARNING
• Tele-health
• Mhealth
• Health Informatics
• Use of technology in health teaching and learning

Knowledge systems
• Indigenous knowledge
• Educational practices
• Knowledge generation and transfer

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

Linguistics & Modern Languages
• General linguistics
• Sociolinguistics
• Applied Linguistics (i.e. Second Language Learning and Teaching)
• Reading / Literacy
• Translation Studies
• French Literature and Language Portuguese Literature and Language

Missiology
• Theology of Mission
• Ecumenical Missiology
• 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
Research focus areas for 2019

- 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 Policy

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
- Pastoral Care and Counselling
- Ministry in the Context of Poverty
- Community Development
- Church Leadership
- Management and Administration
- Homiletics
- Contextual Practical Theology in Africa
- Christian Faith and Moral Formation Educational Practices
- Life Narrative Research
- Multicultural Teaching and Learning
- Spiritual and Moral Leadership
- Pastoral Care and Counselling
- 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
- Liturgical Studies
• Hymnology and Church Music
• Religious Communication
• Homiletics and Hermeneutics
• Worship and Spiritual Formation
• Worship and Identity
• Worship and Leadership
• Pastoral Care
• The Church's Diaconal Service
• The Christian Ministry to the Sick in the African Context
• Celebration and Worship
• Religious Education
• Christian Care, Human Rights, African Women and Widowhood Rites and their Consequences
• 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

**Philosophy**

• African Philosophy
• Critical Reasoning
• Philosophy of Culture
• Philosophy of Education
• Ethics
• Applied Ethics
• Bioethics
• Environmental Ethics
• Political Philosophy
• Social Philosophy
• Aesthetics
• Phenomenology
• Epistemology
• Metaphysics
• Logic
• History and Philosophy of Science
• Cosmology
• Philosophy of Religion
• Medieval Philosophy
• Values and Philosophy
Religious Studies

- African Indigenous Religions and Human Rights
- Buddhism in South Africa
- Buddhist Meditation
- Buddhist Religious Ritual
- 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
- Human Rights, Constitutional Law and Religion
- Madhyamaka Buddhist Philosophy
- 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

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
  - 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 Powers
• International Politics
  o Foreign Policy
  o Foreign Policy of African States
  o Foreign Policy Decision-Making
  o Diplomacy
  o International Organisations
  o International Political Economy
  o International Relations Theory
  o Military Coups
  o Nuclear Energy
  o Environmental Politics
  o Political Leadership
  o Security

Psychology

Psychology in society

  • Focus area 1: Scholarly development of students in psychology
  • Focus area 2: Social justice and inclusion
  • Focus area 3: Hidden histories of psychology
  • Focus area 4: Artistic creativity in South Africa

Sociology

  • Economic sociology
  • Industrial restructuring
  • Social and economic rights
  • Sociology of poverty
  • Sociology of developing countries
  • Race, apartheid and sport
  • Migration
  • Theory
  • Social capital
  • Political economy of global information and news flows
  • Press & broadcast media in South Africa; Global media organisations and globalization
  • Marx’s social theory
  • Labour process; globalisation and class analysis.
  • Currently developing a research proposal towards a PhD study on the changing structure of the South African working class.
  • Sociology of autobiography and biography
  • Representation studies
  • Leadership studies
  • Family sociology,
  • Fatherhood studies and qualitative research
  • Sociology of Health
  • Social and Behaviour Studies
• Sociology of the Family and Communities
• Policy and Programme Evaluation
• HIV, Health and Wellness
• Health Education
• Health Promotion
• Medical Sociology
• Disabilities
• Identities
• Social aspects of HIV/AIDS
• Student Support
• Aspects of HIV/AIDS
• Gender-based violence
• Family sociology and social problems
• Youth studies, survival, livelihood, education, indigenous knowledge systems, and social capital
• Women in the Workplace
• Gender Inequality
• Work/Life Integration
• Women in Leadership

Social Work

• Vulnerable, Marginalised Groups, Populations at Risk
• Social Issues / Problems
• Social Development
• The Social Work Profession
• Social Work Education and Training in the ODL-Context
• Specific / Specialised Methods of Social Work Intervention
• Specialised Fields of Social Work
• Research Approaches and Specialised Research Methods

Research Institute for Theology & Religion

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