College of Human Sciences
Research focus areas for 2021

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
  - The Horror Genre
  - Ghost Literature

- Afrikaans Linguistics:
  - Document Design
  - Behaviour Change Communication
• Cognitive Semantics
• Corpus Linguistics
• Discourse Analysis
• Pragmatics
• Sociolinguistics
• Forensic Linguistics
• Language Performance
• Translation Studies

• **Theory of Literature:**

• Genre Theory
• General Literary Theory
• Critical Theory
• Cultural Studies
• Comparative Literature
• South African and African Literary Studies
• South African Drama and Theatre Studies
• Soweto theatre
• Community theatre
• Plays of Gibson Kente
• The novels of K. Sello Duiker and Niq Mhlongo
• The poetry of Breyten Breytenbach
• The Work of JM Coetzee
• African humanism and decoloniality
• African imaginary and identities
• Postcolonialism
• Ecocriticism
• Animal Studies
• Masculinities studies
• Migration studies
• Narratological methods and strategies
• Spatial configurations
• Intertextuality
• Liminality
• Landscape phenomenology
• Phenomenology
Art & 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

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
  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
  o Women and the City
  o Surveillance and the Gaze
  o Interactive art
  o Gender Studies
  o Ideology in Visual Culture
  o South African Art
  o Contemporary Art
• Art Gallery
  o South African Contemporary Art Collections
  o Art Acquisition Policies
  o Art Curating
  o Culture Industry and Production
  o Participatory Practices in Museums
  o 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
    o Music Education
    o Music and Medicine
    o Music and Psychology
    o Community Music Outreach
  • Drawing
  • Printmaking
  • Alternative Photography Processes
  • Labour Intensive Installations
Anthropology
- African epistemologies
- Critical Anthropology
- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Resource Management
- Decolonial Epistemologies
- Earthen Architecture
- Educational Anthropology
- Economic Anthropology
- Ethno-archaeology
- Feminist Anthropology
- Historical 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
- 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:

- Ancient philosophical schools
- Ancient Greek biography
- Gender in Roman antiquity
- Identity in the ancient world
- Power and empowerment in 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
- Greco-Roman Literature: Epistology, Tragedy, Epic

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 paleodontology
• 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;
- 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**, including, but not limited to:
  Decoloniality; neo-colonialism; post-colonial debates; socio-economic reforms; indigenous knowledge systems (languages, cultures, identities and worldviews); African or alternative or contemporary philosophies of development or strategies for development; social justice and social exclusion; emerging methodologies in Development Studies research; poverty, deprivation and inequality population and development; development aid; people and development; religion and development

- **Identity and Development**, including, but not limited to:
  Gender; feminism; race; youth; the aged; migration; refugees; LGBTQI issues; xenophobia; power and empowerment; alternative identities and inclusive development; men and masculinities in development

- **Governance and Development**, including, but not limited to:
  Good governance; social justice; effective collaborations; improved service delivery; participation; industrialisation, globalisation and labour in development practices; development governance post COVID-19; social policy; housing policy and practice

- **Sustainability, Development Policy, Practice and Development**, 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 development; strong vs weak sustainability; micro-finance; rural entrepreneurship; village renewal processes; sustainable development goals

- **Human Security and Development**, including, but not limited to:
  Human rights; wars; 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
- 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

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
  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
  o Syntax
  o Morphosyntax
  o Phonology
  o 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)
  o Multilingualism in education
  o Language planning in education
  o Second/additional language instruction
  o Second/additional language learning
  o Second/additional language literacy instruction
  o Second/additional language intervention
  o Reading and/or Writing in an additional language
  o Assessment in second/additional language teaching
  o Online/blended/mobile language learning
  o Language learning disorders
  o Reading disorders
  o Socio-affective factors in additional language learning
  o Vocabulary learning in a second/additional language

• Translation Studies
  o Corpus-based Translation Studies
  o Discourse analysis
  o Cognitive approaches to translation
  o Metaphor Translation
  o Ethics in translation
  o Lexicography
  o Terminology
  o Translator training
  o Translatorial prefaces
  o Interpreting Studies
  o Court Interpreting
  o Translation paratext
  o History of translation
  o Computer-Aided Translation
  o Translation Competence

• French Literature and Language
  o Teaching French as a Foreign Language.
  o French Argotology
  o French Medieval Literature
  o World Mythology and Folklore

• Portuguese Literature and Language
  o Portuguese second and heritage language studies
  o Portuguese linguistics
  o Portuguese cultural studies
  o History of the Portuguese language
  o Brazilian cultural studies
  o Lusophone African cultural studies
o Modernist Portuguese literature
o Contemporary Portuguese literature
o Brazilian literature
o Lusophone African literatures
o Discourse analysis
o Narratology
o Comparative literature
o The novels of José Saramago
o The novels of Paulina Chiziane
o The work of Mia Couto
o 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**

• 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 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
• Buddhism in South Africa
• Buddhist Meditation
• 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
• Human Rights, Constitutional Law and Religion
• Islam and African Culture
• 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

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
• 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, Democritisation 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
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

Psychology in society
- Focus area 1: Academic development of university students in psychology
- Focus area 2: Social justice, diversity and inclusion
- Focus area 3: Hidden histories of psychology
- Focus area 4: Artistic creativity and psychology

Cognitive and neuropsychology
- Focus area 5: Neuroscience and neuropsychology
- Focus area 6: Cognitive and experimental psychology

Psychological (well-)being
- Focus area 7: Therapeutic contexts and lived experiences
- Focus area 8: African psychologies and epistemologies
- Focus area 9: Health, wellbeing and developmental psychology

- South African Politics
- Sovereignty
- Sports and Politics
- Transitional Justice
- Separation of Power
Focus area 10: Forensic psychology

Sociology

- Industrial and Economic sociology
- Labour studies and class relations
- Social justice and economic rights
- Sociology of poverty and development
- Sociology of Race and ethnicity
- Sociology Migration
- Urban and rural sociology
- Social capital
- Social Theory, Political economy and globalisation theories
- Sociology of the modern mass media and globalisation
- Sociology of autobiography and biography
- Sociology of Families and social problems
- Gender Studies and Gender based Violence
- Sociology of Health and Wellness
- Social and Behaviour Studies
- Policy and Programme Evaluation
- HIV, Health and Wellness
- Social aspects of HIV/AIDS
- Youth studies involving survival, livelihood, education, indigenous knowledge systems
- Women in the Workplace
- 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