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

- 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: Epistolography, 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;
- 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
- 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

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
    - 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

- 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
- 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

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

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