College of Human Sciences
Research focus areas for 2023

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

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
- Environmental Aesthetics
- South African Art and Cultural History
- Art as Social-Critical Practice (Ideology)
- Urban and Consumer Culture
- 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
- Decolonial Epistemologies
- Educational Anthropology
- Economic Anthropology
- Feminist Anthropology
- Historical Anthropology
- Medical Anthropology
- 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 Greek biography
- Gender in Greco-Roman antiquity
- Identity in the ancient world
- Military historiography
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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; LGBTQI+ issues in development; xenophobia; redistribution empowerment as development; alternative identities and inclusive 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

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
- 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

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   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
- 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
- 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