College of Human Sciences

# Research Focus Areas

African Languages

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

Afrikaans & Theory of Literature

* Afrikaans Literature
  + Afrikaans Literature (Prose and Poetry)
  + South African Drama
  + Contemporary Drama and Theatre Studies
  + Drama and Theatre Semiotics
  + Children’s and Youth Literature
  + Afrikaans Gay Literature
  + Queer Studies
  + Cultural Studies
  + Literary Nonfiction
  + Literary Historiography
  + Literature and Knowledge Systems
  + Ecocriticism
  + Creative Writing
* Afrikaans Linguistics
  + Document Design
  + Behaviour Change Communication
  + Cognitive Semantics
  + Lexicography
  + Sociolinguistics
  + Forensic Linguistics
  + Language Performance
* Theory of Literature
  + Genre Theory
  + General Literary Theory
  + South African Literary Studies
  + Post Colonialism
  + Comparative Literature
  + Cultural Studies
  + Animal Studies
  + Ecocriticism
  + The Work of JM Coetzee
  + The Indian Diaspora
  + Bollywood Cinema
  + Children's Literature
  + Creative Writing

Art History & Visual Arts & Musicology

* Musicology
* Philosophy, especially as related to Embodiment and Cognition
* Jazz Studies
* Music in South Africa
* Phenomenology of Performance
* Learning Theory
* Improvisation
* Critical Theory
* Philosophy of Mind
* Semiotics
* Phenomenology
* Music Cognition and Perception
* Africanist Ethnomusicology
* Historical Musicology
* Music Education
* Afrikaans Music in Twentieth Century South Africa
* Jewish Music in Twentieth Century South Africa
* South African Art Music Composition and Practice
* Composition, with a specific focus on Classical Instrumental Music and Popular Forms including Rock and Electronic Music
* Theory of Film Music
* Visual Arts
* African Art and Cultural History
* Visual Narratives of Cultural Capital and Heritage
* Art Education, Curriculum and Professional Development in Visual Art
* Evolution of Culture
* Theory Of Mind
* Categorization
* Pattern Recognition
* Narratives and Framed Narratives
* Simulation
* Neuroscience
* Posthumanism
* Esoteric Symbolism
* Greco-Roman Mythology
* Comics Studies
* Animation
* Drawing
* Digital and New Media Art
* Intermedia Practice
* The Porosity of Boundaries between Digital and Analogue Arts, Transmedia Narratives, Process-Driven Art
* Contemporary Painting, Drawing and Installation, Collaborative Art Projects
* The Aesthetics of the Sublime
* Practice-Led Research, Curatorship and Professional Exhibition Practice
* Site-Specific Art Practices
* Art in the Urban / Public Domain
* Space / Place / Site
* Video Art as Catalyst for Traumatic and Dissociative Memory
* Video Art in South Africa
* Altermodernism
* Postmodernism
* Video Installations
* Interactive Art
* Internet Art
* Digital Manipulation
* Installation Art
* 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

Communication Science

* Organisational Communication
* Organisational and Media Communication
* Communication Science in Media

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

Information Science

* 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 LIS (Library and Information Science)
* 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 Law, Ethics and Philosophy
* 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

Linguistics & Modern Languages

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

Anthropology

* Critical Anthropology
* Cultural Heritage
* Cultural Resource Management
* Decolonial Epistemologies
* Earthen Architecture
* Educational Anthropology
* Ethno-archaeology
* Feminist Anthropology
* Medical Anthropology
* Orality Studies
* Performance Studies
* Ritual
* Sex and Gender
* The Anthropology of Development
* The Anthropology of Organisations
* The Anthropology of Space and Place
* Urban Anthropology
* Urban Parks

Archaeology

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

Biblical & Ancient Studies

* Early Christianity: Origins of Early Christianity; Historical Jesus Research; The Jesus movement; Pauline Writings; Johannine Writings; Apocalypticism
* Aspects of Greek and Roman Culture with Specific Reference to Early Christianity; Greco-Roman Religions

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

Missiology

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

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

Practical Theology

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

Philosophy

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

Religious Studies

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

Arabic

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

Islamic Studies

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

Development Studies

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

Health Studies

* Scholarship Development in Nursing
* Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
* Youth and Adolescent Health
* HIV and AIDS
* Preventive and Promotive Healthcare
* Healthcare for Diverse Populations
* Public Health

Political Sciences

* African Politics
  + African Constitutions and Constitutionalism
  + Selected African Electoral Systems and Elections
  + Selected African Governing and Opposition Political Parties
  + Selected African Political Economy Issues
  + African Political, Regional and Economic Institutions
  + African Political Thought
  + African Politics In Comparative Perspective – Selected Countries
  + African State Building, Political Leadership and Environmental Politics
* Politics
  + Black Consciousness
  + Civil Society
  + Constitutional Law and Politics
  + Democracy, Democratisation and Governance
  + Elections, Electoral Studies and Electoral Systems
  + Environmental Politics
  + Epistemology and Methodological Issues
  + Human Rights Issues
  + Human Security and Security Issues
  + Nationalism and Separatism
  + Political Conflict Resolution: Theories, Transitions and Constitutional Negotiations
  + Political Parties and Party Systems
  + South African Politics
  + Sovereignty
  + Sports and Politics
  + Transitional Justice
  + Separation of Powers
* International Politics
  + Foreign Policy
  + Foreign 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
* Psychological Science
* Therapeutic Psychology
* Scholarly Development of Students in Psychology
* Social Justice and Inclusion
* Hidden Histories of Psychology
* Neuroscience and Neuropsychology
* Therapeutic Contexts and Lived Experiences
* African Psychologies and Epistemologies
* Health, Wellbeing and Developmental Psychology
* Forensic Psychology
* Cognitive and Experimental Psychology

Sociology

* Vulnerable, Marginalised Groups rr 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

Institute for Gender Studies

* Gender And Health
  + HIV and gender
  + MSM; WSW
* Literary Genres
  + - Science Fiction
    - Fantasy
    - Children’s Literature
    - Gothic Literature
    - Literature of the Supernatural
    - Folklore
    - Fairy Tales
* Theoretical Approaches
  + - Gender Theories: Feminist Theory, Masculinity Studies, Queer Theory
    - Postcolonial Theory, Including Theories of Hybridity, The Postcolonial Subject and Subalternity

Research Institute for Theology & Religion

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