

Religious Observance Calendar

The Office of the Dean of the College encourages faculty to be aware and respectful of the diverse religious observances of our college community members. Faculty are encouraged to excuse a student from class attendance on a holy day and to make accommodation for assignment due dates. The on-line [Undergraduate Bulletin 2016-2017](#), p. 31, states "The undergraduate faculties are sensitive to the religious practices of members of the student body. At the beginning of the semester, students who will be absent from class for religious observances should confer with the instructor(s) about the date of the absence." Please remind your students of this policy.

We encourage academic offices and departments to refrain from scheduling college-wide or other major events on holy days, especially those dates on which people of a given tradition usually do not work or attend school. While the calendar below is not a comprehensive list of holy days, it includes dates of particular significance to traditions represented on campus. (Note that in the future holy days may fall on different dates from year to year because many are calculated based on a lunar calendar. Dates of holy day observances may also vary regionally.)

August 31* – September 1	**Eid al-Adha	Muslim
September 20* – 22	**Rosh HaShanah	Jewish
September 29* – 30	**Yom Kippur	Jewish
September 30* – October 1	**Ashura	Muslim
October 4* – 11	Sukkot	Jewish
October 19	Diwali begins (5 days)	Hindu/Jain
December 12* – 20	Hanukkah	Jewish
December 25	**Christmas	Christian
January 7	**Feast of the Nativity	Orthodox Christian
February 14	Ash Wednesday	Catholic/Protestant Christian
February 16	Lunar New Year	Many traditions in most Asian nations
March 2 – 3	Holi	Hindu
March 30* – April 7	**Pesach/Passover	Jewish
March 30	**Good Friday	Catholic/Protestant Christian
April 1	**Easter	Catholic/Protestant Christian
April 6	**Holy Friday	Orthodox Christian
April 8	**Pascha	Orthodox Christian
Various dates in April	Water Festival	Many traditions in most Asian nations
April 11* – 12	Yom HaShoah	Jewish
May 15* – June 14	Ramadan	Muslim
May 19* – 21	Shavuot	Jewish
June 14* – 15	**Eid al-Fitr	Muslim

**Jewish and Muslim holy days begin at sundown on the first day indicated.*

***Holy days on which absence from work or school is common.*