Religious Observances Calendar

The events listed here are of great importance to observant members of each religion. Faculty members are encouraged to refrain from scheduling major exams or presentations on these dates and to be as flexible as possible with class requirements. Staff members should try to schedule campus events with these observances in mind. Students should contact faculty a week in advance to request accommodations for any class work missed due to a religious observance.

Fall 2019

**August 10* - 11**
*Eid-al-Adha* (*begins at sundown)*
Islamic Festival of Sacrifice, commemorating Abraham’s sacrifice of his son

**August 30*-31**
*Al-Hijra* (*begins at sundown)*
Islamic New Year

**September 29*- October 1**
*Rosh Hashanah* (*begins at sundown)*
Celebration marking the Jewish New Year

**September 29 - October 8**
*Navratri*
*Hindu festival held in honor of the divine feminine*

**October 8 *- 9**
*Yom Kippur* (*begins at sundown)*
Solemn Jewish Day of Atonement and fasting

**October 13* - 20**
*Sukkot* (*begins at sundown)*
Jewish fall harvest festival. Celebrations inside the sukkah booth outside of the Student Center.

**October 20*- October 22**
*Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* (*begin at sundown)*
Jewish assembly of the eighth day and completion of the annual cycle of Torah readings
October 27
Diwali
Indian festival of light celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs

November 1
All Saints Day
Catholic feast day honoring the saints

December 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Catholic feast that honors the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary

December 8
Bodhi Day
Buddhist holiday commemorating the Buddha’s enlightenment

December 22*- 30
Hanukkah (*begins at sundown)
Jewish holiday of light and freedom

December 25
Christmas
Protestant and Catholic Christianity celebration of the birth of Christ

Spring 2020

January 7
Feast of the Nativity
Orthodox Christian Christmas

January 25
Chinese Lunar New Year
(while not a religious holiday, this day is of great cultural importance)

February 9 -10
Magha Puja Day
Buddhist holiday commemorating spontaneous gathering of monks to honor Buddha

February 26
Ash Wednesday
Beginning of six weeks of Lent for Western Christians (day of fasting for Catholics)
March 8
*Holi*
South Asian holiday celebrating the beginning of spring with vibrant colors. Celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains.

March 9*- March 10
*Purim* (*begins at sundown*)
Jewish celebration of deliverance, book of Esther

April 5
*Palm Sunday*
Beginning of Holy Week for Western Christians (April 5 - 12)

April 9
*Maundy Thursday*
Christian commemoration of Last Supper and Jesus’ foot washing

April 10
*Good Friday*
Solemn Christian observance of the passion and death of Jesus Christ (day of fasting for Catholics)

April 9*- April 16
*Passover* (*begins at sundown*)
Jewish holiday commemorating the biblical exodus from slavery in Egypt

April 12
*Easter*
Celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, Catholic and Protestant Christians

April 12 - 19
*Holy Week*, Orthodox Christian church

April 19
*Pascha* (Easter)
Orthodox Christian celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection

April 20*-21
*Yom Hashoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 23 *- May 23
*Ramadan* (*begins at sundown*)
Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer
May 28* - 29
Shavuot (*begins at sundown)
Jewish commemoration of the giving of the Torah

May 23* - 24
Eid-al-Fitr (*begins at sundown)
Festive gathering that marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims