



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Faculty

FROM: Laura Beauvais, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

DATE: April 29, 2013

SUBJECT: *Revised* - Religious Observance and the Academic Calendar

As we come to the end of the 2013 academic year, it is important to remind faculty about University policy on religious observance and the schedule of religious holidays in advance of preparing for Fall courses and other campus events. The following sections from the University Manual (www.uri.edu/facsen/MANUAL_09.html) are relevant to our policy on religious observance and student attendance:

6.20.10 (www.uri.edu/facsen/CHAPTER_6.html) *Policy on Religious Observance. No faculty or staff member, administrator or student shall be discriminated against because of religious beliefs or practice.*

6.20.11 (www.uri.edu/facsen/CHAPTER_6.html) *To facilitate course planning, the University Chaplains shall prepare and provide to staff and faculty a comprehensive listing of religious holy days that traditionally have precluded secular activity. This list shall be provided each semester at least one week prior to the first day of classes. See sections 8.51.11-14 for relevant university make-up policy.*

8.51.11 (www.uri.edu/facsen/8.50-8.57.html) *Students who plan to be absent from classes or examinations for religious holy days that traditionally preclude secular activity (see 6.20.11 for how such information is made available) shall discuss this with the appropriate instructor(s) in advance of the holy day. The instructor(s) shall then make one of the following options available:*

- a. the same quiz, test, or examination to be administered either before or after the normally scheduled time;*
- b. a comparable alternative quiz, test, or examination to be administered either before or after the scheduled time;*
- c. an alternative weighting of the remaining evaluative components of the course which is mutually acceptable to the student and instructor(s).*

8.33.13 (www.uri.edu/facsen/8.30-8.46.html) *Students not attending courses in which they enrolled have the obligation to drop those courses before the drop deadline. Names of students who are absent from the first and second class meetings of a course and who do not notify the course instructor of their intention to attend future class meetings may be submitted by the course instructor and/or the department chairperson to the Office of Enrollment Services for deletion from the class roster. If the instructor does not exercise this option, the student remains enrolled in the course unless s/he drops it through regular procedures. #00-01-12.*

The interfaith calendar (<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>) of religious observances is attached to this message. Please note that all Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date listed on the attached calendar. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and one of the most sacred holidays on the Jewish calendar, begins on the evening of September 4 and continues through the days of September 5 and September 6. Yom Kippur which is listed on September 14, begins on September 13 at sundown. Please be sensitive to and provide flexibility to students who may miss these first days of class due to their commitment to their religious observance of Rosh Hashanah. Students should not be penalized or dropped from the course roster for not attending on these days. If you need assistance in working through potential issues presented by the academic calendar, please do not hesitate to contact the Provost Office or the Faculty Senate leadership.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and productive summer.

c: Academic Deans
Department Chairs
Faculty Senate Executive Committee

INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Primary sacred times for world religions

[2009](#) [2010](#) [2011](#) [2012](#) [2013](#) [2014](#) [2015](#)
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2013

Note: 1. * Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date.
 2. ** Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.
 Bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

JANUARY 2013

- 1
 - Mary, Mother of God - **Catholic Christian**
 - Feast of St Basil - **Orthodox Christian**
 - **Gantan-sai** (New Years) - **Shinto**
 - Holy Name of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
- 5
 - Twelfth Night - **Christian**
 - Guru Gobindh Singh birthday - **Sikh**
- 6
 - Epiphany - **Christian**
 - Feast of the Theophany - **Orthodox Christian**
 - Dia de los Reyes - **Christian**
 - Nativity of Christ - **Armenian Orthodox**
- 7
 - **Nativity of Christ** ** - **Orthodox Christian**
- 13
 - Baptism of the Lord Jesus - **Christian**
 - Maghi - **Sikh**
- 15
 - World Religion Day - **Baha'i**
- 17
 - Blessing of the Animals - **Hispanic Catholic Christian**
- 18-25
 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - **Christian**
- 19
 - Timkat- **Ethiopian Orthodox Christian**
- 20
 - World Religion Day - **Baha'i**
- 24
 - Mawlid an Nabi * ** - **Islam**
- 25
 - Conversion of Saint Paul - **Christian**
- 26
 - Tu BiShvat * - **Jewish**
- 27-30

- Mahayana New Year ** - **Buddhist**

Definitions

FEBRUARY 2013

- 2
 - Candlemas - **Christian**
 - Presentation of Christ in the Temple - **Anglican Christian**
 - Saint Brigid of Kildare - **Celtic Christian**
 - Imbolc and Sughnassad * - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and southern hemispheres
- 3
 - Four Chaplains Sunday - **Interfaith**
 - **Setsubun-sai** - **Shinto**
- 10
 - Transfiguration Sunday - **Christian**
 - **Chinese New Year** - **Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist**
- 12
 - Shrove Tuesday - **Christian**
- 13
 - Ash Wednesday - Lent begins through March 23 **Christian**
- 14
 - Nirvana Day ** - **Buddhist**
 - Valentine's Day - **Christian**
- 15
 - Vasant Panchami ** - **Hindu**
 - Nirvana ** - **Jain**
- 24
 - Purim * - **Jewish**
 - Triodion begins - **Orthodox Christian**
- 26 - March 1
 - Intercalary Days * - **Baha'i**

Definitions

MARCH 2013

- 1
 - Saint David of Wales - **Christian**
- 2 -20
 - Nineteen Day Fast * - **Baha'i**
- 10
 - Meatfare Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
 - Maha Shivaratri - **Hindu**
- 13
 - L. Ron Hubbard birthday - **Scientology**
- 17

- St Patrick's Day - **Christian**
- Cheesefare Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 18
 - Clean Monday - Lent begins - **Orthodox Christian**
- 19
 - Saint Joseph's Day - **Christian**
- 20 Equinox
 - Ostara * - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere
 - Mabon * - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere
- 21
 - **Naw Ruz** (New Year) * - **Baha'i**
 - Norouz (New Year) - **Persian/Zoroastrian**
- 24
 - Orthodox Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
 - Palm Sunday - **Christian**
- 25
 - Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin - **Christian**
- 26-27 *
 - **Pesach** (Passover) First two days * - **Judaism**
- 26
 - Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranhushtra) **Zoroastrian**
- 27
 - **Magha Puja** Day ** - **Buddhist**
 - Lord's Evening Meal - **Jehovah's Witness Christian**
 - Holi ** - **Hindu**
- 28
 - Maundy Thursday - **Christian**
 - Hola Mohalla - **Sikh**
 - Birth of Prophet Zarathushtra ** - **Zoroastrian**
- 29
 - **Good Friday** - **Christian**
- 31
 - **Easter** - **Christian**

Definitions

APRIL 2013

- 1-2
 - **Pesach** - Last two days * - **Jewish**
- 7
 - Yom HaShoah * - **Jewish**
- 11
 - Hindu New Year ** - **Hindu**
- 11-20
 - Ramayana ** - **Hindu**

- 14
 - **Baisakhi** - New Year - **Sikh**
- 15
 - Yom Ha'Atzmaut* - **Jewish**
- 20
 - Ramanavani ** - **Hindu**
- 21
 - First Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**
- 23
 - St. George Day - **Christian**
- 25
 - Hanuman Jayanti ** - **Hindu**
 - **Mahavir Jayanti** ** - **Jain**
- 25-28
 - Therevadin New Year ** - **Buddhist**
- 27
 - Lazarus Saturday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 28
 - Lag B'Omer * - **Jewish**
 - Palm Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 29
 - Ninth Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**

Definitions

MAY 2013

- 1
 - **Beltane and Samhain** * - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and southern hemispheres
- 2
 - Twelfth Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**
 - National Day of Prayer USA - **Interfaith**
- 3
 - **Holy Friday** - **Orthodox Christian**
- 5
 - **Easter/Pascha** - **Orthodox Christian**
- 9
 - Ascension Day - **Christian**
- 15-16
 - Shavuot * - **Jewish**
- 19
 - **Pentecost** (Whit Sunday) - **Christian**
- 23
 - **Declaration of the Bab** * - **Baha'i**
- 25

- **Visakha Puja** - Buddha Day ** - **Buddhist**
- 26
 - Trinity Sunday - **Christian**
- 29
 - **Ascension of Baha'u'llah** * - **Baha'i**
- 30
 - Corpus Christi - **Catholic Christian**

Definitions

JUNE 2013

- 5
 - Lailat al Miraj * ** - **Islam**
- 7
 - Sacred Heart of Jesus - **Catholic Christian**
- 13
 - Ascension of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
- 16
 - Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom - **Sikh**
- 19
 - New Church Day - **Swedenborgian Christian**
- 21 Solstice
 - Litha * - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere
 - Yule * - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere
- 23
 - Lailat al Bara'ah * ** - **Islam**
 - Pentecost - **Orthodox Christian**
- 24
 - Lailat al Bara'ah * - **Islam**
- 29
 - Saints Peter and Paul - **Christian**
- 30
 - All Saints - **Orthodox Christian**

Definitions

JULY 2013

- 9
 - **Ramadan begins** * ** - **Islam**
 - Martyrdom of the Bab * - **Baha'i**
- 11
 - Saint Benedict Day - **Christian**
- 13-15
 - **Obon** ** - **Shinto -Buddhist**

- 15
 - Saint Vladimir Day - **Christian**
- 16
 - Tish'a B'Av
 - * - **Judaism**
- 22
 - **Asalhka Puja Day** ** - **Buddhist**
- 24
 - Pioneer Day - **Mormon Christian**

Definitions

AUGUST 2013

- 1
 - Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
 - Lammas - **Christian**
 - Lughnassad and Imbolc * ** - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and southern hemispheres
- 3
 - Laylat al Kadr * - **Islam**
- 6
 - Transfiguration of the Lord - **Orthodox Christian**
- 8-11
 - **Eid al Fitr** * ** - **Islam**
- 15
 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - **Catholic Christian**
 - Dormition of the Theotokos _ **Orthodox Christian**
- 21
 - Raksha Bandhan ** - **Hindu**
- 28
 - **Krishna Janmashtami** ** - **Hindu**
- 29
 - Beheading of John the Baptist - **Christian**

Definitions

SEPTEMBER 2013

- 1
 - Ecclesiastical Year begins - **Orthodox Christian**
- 5-6
 - **Rosh Hashanah** * - **Jewish**
- 9
 - Ganesh Chaturthi ** - **Hindu**
- 10
 - **Paryushana Parva** ** - **Jain**

- 14
 - **Yom Kippur*** - **Jewish**
 - Elevation of the Life Giving Cross - Holy Cross Day - **Christian**
- 19-25
 - Sukkot* - **Jewish**
- 22 Equinox
 - Mabon * - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere
 - Ostara * - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere
- 26
 - Shemini Atzeret * - **Jewish**
- 27
 - Simchat Torah * - **Jewish**
 - Meskel - **Ethiopian Christian**
- 29
 - Michael and All Angels - **Christian**

OCTOBER 2013

- 4
 - Saint Francis Day - **Catholic Christian**
- 5-13
 - **Navaratri **** - **Hindu**
- 14
 - Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day * ** - **Islam**
 - Thanksgiving - Canada - **Interfaith**
 - Dasera ** - **Hindu**
- 15-18
 - **Eid al Adha * **** - **Islam**
- 18
 - Saint Luke - Apostle and Evangelist - **Christian**
- 20
 - Birth of the Báb * - **Baha'i**
 - Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth - **Sikh**
- 27
 - Reformation Day ** - **Protestant Christian**
- 31
 - All Hallows Eve - **Christian**

Definitions

NOVEMBER 2013

- 1
 - All Saints Day - **Christian**
 - **Samhain and Beltane *** - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 1-5

- Deepavali ** - **Hindu**
- 2
 - All Soul's Day - **Catholic Christian**
- 3
 - **Diwali** - Deepavali ** - **Hindu - Jain - Sikh**
 - Jain New Year ** - **Jain**
- 4
 - Hijra - New Year * ** - **Islam**
- 12
 - Birth of Baha'u'llah * - **Bahai**
- 13
 - Ashura * ** - **Islam**
- 4
 - Christ the King - **Christian**
- 14
 - Winter Lent begins to 12/25 - **Orthodox Christian**
- 17
 - **Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday** - **Sikh**
- 21
 - Yule - **Christian**
- 24
 - Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom - **Sikh**
- 26
 - Day of the Covenant * - **Baha'i**
- 28
 - Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha * - **Baha'i**
 - Thanksgiving - USA - **Interfaith**
- 28-Dec 5
 - Hanukkah * - **Judaism**
- 30
 - Saint Andrew's Day - **Christian**

Definitions

DECEMBER 2013

- 1 through 24
 - Advent (first Sunday) - **Christian**
- 6
 - Saint Nicholas Day - **Christian**
- 8
 - Rohatsu - Bodhi Day ** - **Buddhist**
 - Immaculate Conception of Mary - **Catholic Christian**
- 12
 - Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe - **Catholic Christian**
- 16-25
 - Posadas Navidenas - **Christian**

- 21 Solstice
 - Yule * - **Wicca/Pagan** northern hemisphere
 - Litha * - **Wicca/Pagan** southern hemisphere
 - Yule - **Christian**
- 24
 - Christmas Eve - **Christian**
- 25
 - **Christmas** * - **Christian**
- 26
 - Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra)** - **Zoroastrian**
- 28
 - Holy Innocents - **Christian**
- 29
 - Feast of the Holy Family - **Catholic Christian**
- 31
 - Watch Night - **Christian**

[Definitions](#)

Update on April 5, 2013

Return to [Interfaith Calendar](#)