

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE DATES

(JULY 1ST - JUNE 30TH)



This resource* can be used to guide your planning process for scheduling events and exams on campus. This list of holidays is in no way comprehensive or complete, but this list does highlight the major days of observance of many of the various religious students on campus.

The calendar is a work in progress and does not entirely capture representation of the University's spiritual traditions. The department of Spiritual Care appreciates feedback in order to better serve and represent our campus community.

* Adapted and used with permission from the University of Calgary.

Tradition	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Holiday/Commemoration
Bahá'í	July 9 th , 2020	July 9th, 2021	July 10th, 2022	The Martyrdom of the Báb – is the memorial of the death of The Báb, on this day work is suspended
Badí' Calendar Year 1 = 1844 CE, Marks the beginning of the Bahá'í Era or Badí' Era	October 18th, 2020	November 6th, 2021	October 26th, 2022	The birth anniversary of The Báb – the Herald of the new age for Bahá'ís
	October 19th, 2020	November 7th, 2021	October 27th, 2022	The anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah – the founder of the Bahá'í faith
	March 20th , 2021	March 20th, 2022	March 20th, 2023	Naw-Rúz – is New Year's Day, the first day of the year in the Bahá'í Era, in which practitioners break – fast and celebrate during the evening
	April 20th – May 1st , 2021	April 21st – May 2nd, 2022	April 21st – May 2nd, 2023	The Festival of Ridván – meaning “the King of Festivals” runs for 12 days to commemorate the 12 days Baha'u'llah spent in the garden of Ridván outside Baghdad. The 1st, 9th, and 12th days are holy days on which work is suspended
	May 23rd, 2021	May 24th, 2022	May 24th, 2023	The Declaration of the Báb – commemorates the day in 1844 when the Báb announced He is the Herald of the new age
	May 28th, 2021	May 29th, 2022	May 29th, 2023	Ascension of Baha'u'llah – marks the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith.
Buddhist	December 8th, 2020	December 8th, 2021	December 8th, 2022	Bodhi Day/Rohatsu – or Awakening Day, commemorates the day in which Siddhartha Gautama sat underneath the Bodhi tree, or sacred fig tree, and attained enlightenment. Primarily celebrated in Japan and North America.
The Buddhist Calendars are a set of lunisolar calendars primarily used in mainland Southeast Asian countries	~ January 28th – 30th, 2021	~ January 18th – 20th, 2022	~ January 7th – 9th, 2023	Mahayana New Year – Because the beginning is marked by sighting the moon, the actual date is not always predictable (3 days from the first full moon in January)
Types of Buddhists: Theravada Mahayana Zen Tibetan	February 12th, 2021	February 1st, 2022	January 22nd, 2023	Lunar New Year – is the first day after the new moon, a religious and cultural festival for Chinese, Vietnamese and Koreans of Buddhist and other backgrounds
Year 1 = 543-542 BCE	February 12th, 2021	March 3rd, 2022	February 21st, 2023	Tibetan New Year – Losar is a 15 day celebration, with the main celebration on the first 3 days
	February 15th, 2021	February 15th, 2022	February 15th, 2023	Nirvana Day – Nehan-e is the Mahayana memorial of the historical Buddha's passing away
	~ April 27th – 29th, 2021	~ April 16th – 18th, 2022	~ April 6th – 8th, 2023	Theravada New Year – Because the beginning is marked by sighting the moon, the actual date is not always predictable (3 days from the first full moon in April)
	May 26th, 2021	May 15th, 2022	May 5th, 2023	Wesak/Buddha Day/Visakha Puja – is the most important day of the year for Theravada Buddhists that commemorates the birth, awakening and passing away of the historical Buddha; Siddhartha Gautama

Tradition	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Holiday/Commemoration
Christianity	December 25th, 2020	December 25th, 2021	December 25th, 2022	Christmas – celebrates the birth of Christ, the promised messiah. More importance is given to this holiday in Western Christianity
Gregorian Calendar (Catholic/Protestant/ Orthodox following modified calendar) Year 1 = 0 CE	March 31st – April 3rd, 2021	April 13th – 16th, 2022	April 5th – 8th, 2023	Easter Triduum – the celebration of the Easter Triduum opens with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, reaches its climax in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Christians celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. It is the high point of the liturgical year.
	April 1st, 2021	April 14th, 2022	April 6th, 2023	Good Friday – commemorates the Passion of Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	April 3rd, 2021	April 16th, 2022	April 8th, 2023	Easter – celebrates the resurrection of Christ
Christianity	January 6th, 2021	January 6th, 2022	January 6th, 2023	Nativity of Christ on Epiphany – as celebrated by the Armenian Orthodox Church
Julian Calendar (Orthodox/Ukrainian Catholic/Coptic) Year 1 = 0 CE	January 7th, 2021	January 7th, 2022	January 7th, 2023	Christmas – celebrates the birth of Christ, promised Messiah
	April 30th, 2021	April 22nd, 2022	April 14th, 2023	Holy Friday – commemorates the Passion of Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	May 2nd, 2021	April 24th, 2022	April 16th, 2023	Pascha – celebrates the resurrection of Christ
Hindu	August 11th, 2020	August 30th, 2021	August 18th, 2022	Sri Krishna Jayanti (Janmashtami) – celebrates the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the God Vishnu
The Indian national calendar or "Saka calendar" was introduced in 1957 based on the traditional regional Hindu calendars; these share the names of the twelve months but have some different festivals and the month which starts the year also varies from region to region	November 4th, 2020	November 4th, 2021	October 24th, 2022	Diwali – is a popular festival known as the Festival of Lights, celebrated continuously for five days, associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations. Also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains
	January 14th, 2021	January 14th, 2022	January 4th, 2023	Makar Sankranti – a harvest festival that marks the increase of the sun twinned with the Punjab celebration Lohri, which marks the passing of the winter solstice
	February 16th, 2021	February 5th, 2022	January 26th, 2023	Vasanta Panchami – is a North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati and Lakshmi, the Goddess of Learning and the Goddess of Wealth as well as the colour yellow
	March 11th, 2021	February 28th, 2022	February 18th, 2023	Maha Shivaratri – "the Great Night of Shiva," is a major festival in Hinduism, but one that is solemn and marks a remembrance of "overcoming darkness and ignorance" in life and the world and honors the God Shiva
	March 29th, 2021	March 19th, 2022	March 7th, 2023	Holi – is the Festival of Colours that welcomes Spring, generally celebrated over two days, with people throwing colourful powder and coloured water on each other
	April 13th – 22nd , 2021	April 2nd – 11th, 2022	March 22nd – 31st, 2023	Chaitra Navratri – a nine day festival dedicated to nine forms of Goddess Shakti
	July 30-31st, 2020	July 19-20th, 2021	August 10-11th, 2022	Eid al-Adha' – as Abraham offered his son Ishmael to God, so Muslims offer goat, sheep & camels, distributing the meat among family and the poor. This is the concluding act of pilgrimage (Hajj) but also observed even when not on pilgrimage.
Hijri Calendar Year 1 = 622CE Note * Because the beginning of the month is marked by sighting the moon, the actual dates are not always predictable	First day = April 12th until Last day = May 12th, 2021	First day = April 2nd until Last day = May 2nd , 2022	First day = March 22nd until Last day = April 20th, 2023	First Day of the Holy Month of Ramadan – the month of fasting, self-examination and devotion during which physically able Muslims do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset
	May 13th, 2021	May 3rd, 2022	April 21st, 2023	Eid al-Fitr – marks the end of Ramadan (observance begins at sunset of the previous day). A special service is celebrated at mosques.

Tradition	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Holiday/Commemoration
Jain Indian Lunar Calendar	August 16th – 23rd, 2020	August 30th – September 6th, 2021	August 24th – 31st, 2022	Paryshana-parva – is the holiest period of the year for the Shvetambara sect, includes fasting, worship, and reading the life story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra. It is celebrated over 8 days ending on Samvatsari
	August 23rd, 2020	September 6th, 2021	August 31st, 2022	Samvatsari – the Day of Forgiveness, is the last day of Paryushana-parva and is observed by fasting, introspection, confession and penance
	November 15th, 2020	November 4th, 2021	October 24th, 2022	Mahavira Nirvana & Diwali – on this day the 24th Tirthankara attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth
	April 19th -27th, 2021	April 8th – 16th, 2022	May 28th – April 16th, 2023	Aymbil Oli – is a 9 day festival occurring twice a year in which Jains revere the Nav-pads, 'nine-posts,' the 9 supreme posts in the universe. This involves a special type of fasting
	April 25th, 2021	April 14th, 2022	April 4th, 2023	Mahavari – jayanti – celebrates the birth of the Lord Mahavira, "Great Hero," the 24th and last Tirthankara of his time: a saviour who has succeeded in crossing over life's stream of rebirths and has made a path for others to follow
Judaism	July 30th, 2020	July 18th, 2021	August 6th, 2022	Tish'a B'Av – the ninth month of Av, is a major fast day that commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem in ancient times
Hebrew Calendar Year 1 = 3760 BCE *Note A Jewish day extends from sundown to sundown	September 18th -20th, 2020	September 6th -8th, 2021	September 25th -27th, 2022	Rosh Hashanah – New year's Day in the Jewish calendar (5777), anniversary of the creation of the world and the first of the Ten days of Awe
	September 27th -28th, 2020	September 15th -16th, 2021	October 4th -5th, 2022	Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement, is the year's holiest day and a day of fasting. Jews ask forgiveness from and forgive others, as to re-establish oneness with God, as well as confessing their sins and asking God for forgiveness
	October 2nd -9th, 2020	September 20th -27th, 2021	October 9th -16th, 2022	Sukkot – is a pilgrimage feast and a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people
	October 9th -11th, 2020	September 27th -29th, 2021	October 16th -18th, 2022	Shmini Atzeret – the Eight Day of Assembly, is a holiday that concludes Sukkot and marks the beginning of winter in Israel
	October 10th -11th, 2020	September 28th -29th, 2021	October 17th -18th, 2022	Simhat Torah – Rejoicing of the Law, celebrates the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle at the synagogue
	December 10th -18th, 2020	November 28th -December 6th, 2021	December 18th -26th, 2022	Chanukah – the festival of rededication also known as the Festival of Lights. It marks the expulsion of the invading Seleucid Greeks in second century BCE
	February 25th -26th, 2021	March 16th – 17th, 2022	March 6th – 7th, 2023	Purim – the festival of lots is a holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish exiles in Persia, from the destructive plot by Haman.
	March 27th – April 4th, 2021	April 15th – 23rd, 2022	April 5th – 13th, 2023	Pesach – Passover commemorates the story of Exodus in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt.
	May 16th – 18th, 2021	June 4th – 6th, 2022	May 25th – 27th, 2023	Shavuot – the festival of weeks commemorates God's provision of Torah to the nation of Israel, assembled at Mount Sinai. Its date is directly linked to Passover.

Tradition	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Holiday/Commemoration
Sikh	October 20th, 2020	October 20th, 2021	October 20th, 2022	Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji – celebrates Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10th Guru) passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures
Nanakshahi Calendar Year 1 = 1469 CE	November 14th, 2020	November 4th, 2021	October 24th, 2022	Bandi Chhor Divas – commemorated the return of Guru Hargobind Ji (6th Guru) to the holy city of Amritsar after negotiating the release of himself and 52 princes held for political reasons
Note * Dates of some festivals are fixed to the Hindu Calendar, which change every year, and some have been changed to fit the Gregorian Calendar	November 30th, 2020	November 18th, 2021	November 8th, 2022	Birth Date of Guru Nanak Dev Ji – the founder of the Sikh faith, an accomplished poet and the first of the Ten Gurus in 1469 CE
	November 24th, 2020	November 24th, 2021	November 24th, 2022	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur – the ninth of the Ten Gurus, he is remembered for his defense of the Sikh faith, but also for being willing to give up his life for religious liberty of all faiths (1621-1675)
	March 14th, 2021	March 14th, 2022	March 14th, 2023	Sikh New Year's Day – marks the first day of the year in the Nanakshahi Era
	April 13th -14th, 2021	April 13th -14th, 2022	April 13th -14th, 2023	Vaisakhi – commemorates the day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th guru, removed the clerical system from Sikhism and affirmed the direct connection between Sikhs and the Divine
	March 29th – 31st, 2021	March 18th – 20th, 2022	March 25th – 27th, 2023	Hola Mohalla – 3 day festival celebrated around the time of the Hindu festival of Holi that incorporates martial arts demonstrations and simulated battles
	June 16th, 2021	June 16th, 2022	June 16th, 2023	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji - the fifth Sikh Guru and the first Sikh Martyr was killed in 1606 by Mughal authorities, his death transformed the Sikhs into saint-soldiers in the fight against oppression.
Zoroastrian	December 26th, 2020	December 26th, 2021	December 26th, 2022	Death of Prophet Zarathustra – the founder of Zoroastrian faith who lived somewhere between – 6000 – 2000 BCE
Qadimi Calendar	March 21st, 2021	March 21st, 2022	March 21st, 2023	Norooz – “new day,” is New Year's Day in the Fasli seasonal calendar celebrating the renewal of the world, the creation of fire and the day Zarathustra received his revelation