

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	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Holiday/Commemoration
Bahá'í	October 21, 2017	November 9, 2018	October 29, 2019	The birth anniversary of The Báb – the Herald of the new age for Bahá'ís
Badí' Calendar Year 1 = 1844 CE, Marks the beginning of the Bahá'í Era or Badí' Era	October 22, 2017	November 10, 2018	October 30, 2019	The anniversary of the birth of Báha'u'lláh – the founder of the Bahá'í faith
	March 21, 2018	March 21, 2019	March 21, 2020	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 21 – May 2, 2018	April 21 – May 2, 2019	April 20 – May 1, 2020	The Festival of Ridván – meaning “the King of Festivals” runs for 12 days to commemorate the 12 days Báha'u'lláh spent in the garden of Ridván outside Baghdad. The 1st, 9th, and 12th days are holy days on which work is suspended
	May 23, 2018	May 24, 2019		The Declaration of the Báb – commemorates the day in 1844 when the Báb announced He is the Herald of the new age
	May 29, 2018	May 29, 2019	May 28, 2020	Ascension of Báha'u'lláh – marks the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith.
Buddhist The Buddhist Calendars are a set of lunisolar calendars primarily used in mainland Southeast Asian countries Types of Buddhists: Theravada Mahayana Zen Tibetan Year 1 = 543-542 BCE	December 8, 2017	December 8, 2018	December 8, 2019	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.
	January 2 – 4, 2018	January 21 – 23, 2019	January 8 – 10, 2020	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)
	February 16, 2018	February 5, 2019	January 25, 2020	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
	February 16, 2018	February 5, 2019	February 24, 2020	Tibetan New Year – Losar is a 15 day celebration, with the main celebration on the first 3 days
	February 15, 2018	February 15, 2019	February 15, 2020	Nirvana Day – Nehan-e is the Mahayana memorial of the historical Buddha's passing away
	~ April 30 – May 2, 2018	~ April 19 – 21, 2019	~ April 7-9, 2020	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)
	April 29, 2018	May 18, 2019	May 7, 2020	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

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Christianity	December 25, 2017	December 25, 2018	December 25, 2019	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 29 - April 1, 2018	April 18 - April 21, 2019	April 9 - April 12, 2020	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.
	March 30, 2018	April 19, 2019	April 10, 2020	Good Friday – commemorates the Passion of Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	April 1, 2018	April 21, 2019	April 12, 2020	Easter – celebrates the resurrection of Christ
Christianity	January 6, 2018	January 6, 2019	January 6, 2020	Nativity of Christ on Epiphany – as celebrated by the Armenian Orthodox Church
Julian Calendar (Orthodox/Ukrainian Catholic/Coptic) Year 1 = 0 CE	January 7, 2018	January 7, 2019	January 7, 2020	Christmas – celebrates the birth of Christ, promised Messiah
	April 6, 2018	April 26, 2019	April 17, 2020	Holy Friday – commemorates the Passion of Christ and his submission to death by crucifixion
	April 8, 2018	April 28, 2019	April 19, 2020	Pascha – celebrates the resurrection of Christ
Hindu 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	August 14, 2017	September 2, 2018	August 24, 2019	Sri Krishna Jayanti (Janmashtami) – celebrates the birthday of Krishna, the 8th incarnation of the God Vishnu
	October 19, 2017	November 7, 2018	October 27, 2019	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 14, 2018	January 14, 2019	January 14, 2020	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
	January 21, 2018	February 9, 2019	January 30, 2020	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
	February 13, 2018	March 4, 2019	February 21, 2020	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 2, 2018	March 21, 2019	March 10, 2020	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
	March 18 – 26, 2018	April 6 – 14, 2019	March 25 – April 3, 2020	Chaitra Navratri – a nine day festival dedicated to nine forms of Goddess Shakti
Islam	August 31/ September 1, 2017	August 21/22, 2018	August 11/12, 2019	Eid al-Adha’ – at the Festival of Sacrifice, as Abraham offered his son, Ishmael, to God, so Muslims offer goat, sheep & camels and then distribute the meat to 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 = May 27 until Last day = June 25, 2017	First day = May 16 until Last day = June 14, 2018	First day = May 6 until Last day = June 4, 2019	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
	June 25, 2017	June 14, 2018	June 4, 2019	Eid al-Fitr – is the last day of the month and is “the breaking of the fast” that celebrates the end of Ramadan (observance begins at sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day)

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Jain	August 18 – 25, 2017	September 6 – 13, 2018	August 27 – September 3, 2019	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
Indian Lunar Calendar	August 25, 2017	September 13, 2018	September 3, 2019	Samvatsari – the Day of Forgiveness, is the last day of Paryushana-parva and is observed by fasting, introspection, confession and penance
	October 18, 2017	November 7, 2018	October 27, 2019	Mahavira Nirvana & Diwali – on this day the 24th Tirthankara attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth
	March 23 – 31, 2018	April 11 – 19, 2019	March 31 – April 8, 2020	Ayambil 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 3, 2018	April 17, 2019	April 6, 2020	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 31, 2017	July 21, 2018	August 10, 2019	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 21-22, 2017	September 10-11, 2018	September 30 - October 1, 2019	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 30, 2017	September 19, 2018	October 9, 2019	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 5-11, 2017	September 24-30, 2018	October 14-20, 2019	Sukkot – is a pilgrimage feast and a time of thanksgiving for God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people
	October 12, 2017	October 1, 2018	October 21, 2019	Shmini Atzeret – the Eight Day of Assembly, is a holiday that concludes Sukkot and marks the beginning of winter in Israel
	October 13, 2017	October 2, 2018	October 22, 2019	Simhat Torah – Rejoicing of the Law, celebrates the beginning of the annual Torah reading cycle at the synagogue
	December 12-20, 2017	December 2-10, 2018	December 22-30, 2019	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
	March 1, 2018	March 21, 2019	March 10, 2020	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 31 - April 7, 2018	April 20 - April 27, 2019	April 9 - April 16, 2020	Pesach – Passover commemorates the story of Exodus in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt.

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Sikh	October 20, 2017	October 20, 2018	October 20, 2019	Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji – celebrates Guru Gobind Singhi Ji (10th Guru) passing the Guruship to the Holy Scriptures	
Nanakshahi Calendar Year 1 = 1469 CE	October 19, 2017	November 7, 2018	October 27, 2019	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 4, 2017	November 23, 2018	November 12, 2019	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 24, 2017	November 24, 2018	November 24, 2019	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 14, 2018	March 14, 2019	March 14, 2020	Sikh New Year's Day – marks the first day of the year in the Nanakshahi Era	
	April 13, 2018	April 13, 2019	April 13, 2020	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 2, 2018	March 21, 2019	March 10, 2020	Hola Mohalla – 3 day festival celebrated around the time of the Hindu festival of Holi that incorporates martial arts demonstrations and simulated battles	
	June 16, 2018	June 16, 2019	June 16, 2020	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 26, 2017	December 26, 2018	December 26, 2019	Death of Prophet Zarathustra – the founder of Zoroastrian faith who lived somewhere between – 6000 – 2000 BCE
	Qadimi Calendar	March 21, 2018	March 21, 2019	March 21, 2020	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