

RELIGIOUS and CIVIC OBSERVANCES

When planning courses, departmental programs, and other activities for the academic year, it is useful to remember the rich mixture of religious and ethnic groups that comprise our student population. The following list includes some religious holy days and civic holidays and festivals that occur for the 2008-2009 academic year for certain religious and ethnic communities. A five-year calendar is available at: http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/rel_hol_cal.html.

This list is not exhaustive, nor does the observance of all the holy days or holidays require absence from class. Please also review the Schedule of Classes for academic calendar information: <http://registrar.indiana.edu/~registra/scheofclass.shtml>.

There is an Indiana University Religious Holy Days/Holidays policy, the result of lengthy faculty discourse as to the just and appropriate way to deal with our increasingly diverse student population, while attempting to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating religious observance and meeting academic needs and standards. This policy requires instructors to make a reasonable accommodation when a student must miss an exam or other academic exercise because of a required religious observance. The policy outlines a procedure that students should follow in requesting an accommodation.

Some examples and exceptions:

- Faculty do not have to consider accommodations for the purpose of allowing students to travel away from Bloomington for a religious observance.
- Any student who is unable to attend classes or participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on some particular day(s) because of his/her religious beliefs must be given the opportunity to make up the work which was missed, provided that the makeup work does not create an unreasonable burden upon Indiana University. Upon request and timely notice, students shall be provided reasonable accommodation.
- The University will not levy fees or charges of any kind when allowing the student to make up missed work. In addition, no adverse or prejudicial effects should result to students because they have made use of these provisions.
- Attendance policies allowing for a specific number of dates to be missed without impact on a student's grade should not count absences for religious observance within that number. Making accommodations requires faculty and students to find suitable accommodation to cover the material from the course and complete all required work, including exams. It is not an appropriate accommodation to permit a student to not complete a portion of material from the course, or to miss an exam, and simply reduce that student's grade.
- Students are not required to prove attendance at religious services or events in order to obtain an accommodation for religious observance under IU policy. The students are requested to give notice early in the semester. Please include this reminder in your syllabus.
- Chairs and supervisors of Associate Instructors and all other instructional personnel have a responsibility to ensure compliance with this policy. It is an appropriate, indeed a necessary policy for an increasingly diverse institution like Indiana University.

Indiana University's policy on accommodations for religious holy days or holidays for both students and faculty is available at the following address:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/holidays.html>

The form that students can complete to request accommodations can also be found at this website address.

To assist instructors and students in their planning, the Dean of the Faculties Office encourages instructors to do the following in the beginning of the semester:

- Announce dates and times for examinations and other major obligations as early as possible.
- Instruct students to let them know of conflicts very early in the semester so that accommodations can be made (syllabus).
- Provide students with the address for the Dean of the Faculties web page containing the policy and accommodations request form.
- Violation of this policy by instructors should be construed as an impediment to effective teaching.
- If, after discussion, the instructor and student cannot agree on an accommodation, either or both should seek the advice of the Dean of the Faculties Office.

2008-2009 Religious Holy Days, Holidays and Civic Observances

First Semester 2008–2009

Beginning of Ramadan	Islamic	Aug. 31-Sept. 1*#	Sun.-Mon.
Labor Day (U.S. civic holiday) classes do <u>not</u> meet		Sept. 1	Monday
Autumn Equinox (EST)		Sept. 22	Monday
Eid al-Fitr (Eid-ul-Fitr) (first day of Shawwal)	Islamic	Sept. 29-30*#	Mon.-Tue.
Rosh Hashanah [New Year]	Jewish	Sept. 29-Oct. 1*	Mon.-Wed.
Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement]	Jewish	Oct. 8-9*	Wed.-Thurs.
Columbus Day (U.S. civic holiday)		Oct. 13	Monday
Día de la Raza (Latino civic holiday)		Oct. 13	Monday
Sukkot [Feast of Tabernacles]	Jewish	Oct. 13-15*	Mon.-Wed.
Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	Oct. 19-20*	Sun.-Mon.
Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah	Jewish	Oct. 20-22*	Mon.-Wed.
Veterans Day (U.S. civic holiday)		Nov. 11	Tuesday
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	Nov. 11-12*	Tue.-Wed.
Thanksgiving Day (U.S. civic holiday)		Nov. 27	Thursday
Eid al-Adha	Islamic	Dec. 7-8*	Sun.-Mon.
Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)	Buddhist	Dec. 8	Monday
Winter Solstice (EST)		Dec. 21	Sunday
Hanukkah (Chanukah) [8-day Feast]	Jewish	Dec. 21-29*	Sun.-Mon.
Christmas	Western Christian	Dec. 25	Thursday
Kwanzaa	Interfaith / African-American	Dec. 26-Jan. 1	Fri.-Thurs.
Al-Hijra (Muharram) (New Year)	Islamic	Dec. 28-29*	Sun.-Mon.

**Holy days start at sundown of beginning date and end at sundown or nightfall of concluding date.*

#All dates are from Fiqh Council of North America adopted Islamic Calendar. For events based on sightability of the moon in North America, those denoted with "#" will be the next day from these dates.

2nd Semester 2008–2009

Gantan-sai (New Years)	Shinto	Jan. 1	Thursday
Ashura (10th day of Muharram)	Islamic	Jan. 6-7*	Tue.-Wed.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day classes do <u>not</u> meet		Jan. 19	Monday
Asian Lunar New Year [Year of the Ox]	Chinese	Jan. 26	Monday
Presidents' Day		Feb. 16	Monday
Mawlid-al-Nabi (Muhammed's birthday)	Islamic	Mar. 8-9*	Sun.-Mon.
Purim	Jewish	Mar. 9-10*	Mon.-Tue.
Vernal Equinox (EST)		Mar. 20	Friday
Naw-Ruz / Iranian New Year	Bahá'i	Mar. 20-21*	Fri.-Sat.
Palm Sunday	Western Christian	Apr. 5	Sunday
Passover (Pesach), 1st two days	Jewish	Apr. 8-10*	Wed.-Fri.
Good Friday	Western Christian	Apr. 10	Friday
Easter	Western Christian	Apr. 12	Sunday
Palm Sunday	Eastern Orthodox	Apr. 12	Sunday
Passover (Pesach), concluding days	Jewish	Apr. 14-16*	Tue.-Thurs.
Holy Friday	Eastern Orthodox	Apr. 17	Friday
Pascha	Eastern Orthodox	Apr. 19	Sunday
Ridvan Festival, 1st of 12 days	Baha'i	Apr. 20-21*	Mon.-Tue.
9th Day of Ridvan	Bahá'i	Apr. 28-29*	Tue.-Wed.
12th Day of Ridvan	Bahá'i	May 1-2*	Fri.-Sat.

**Holy days start at sundown of beginning date and end at sundown or nightfall of concluding date.*

#All dates are from Fiqh Council of North America adopted Islamic Calendar. For events based on sightability of the moon in North America, those denoted with "#" will be the next day from these dates.

Summer Sessions 2009

Declaration of the Báb	Bahá'i	May 22-23*	Fri.-Sat.
Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Bahá'i	May 28-29*	Thurs.-Fri.
Shavuot (Feast of Weeks)	Jewish	May 28-30*	Thurs.-Sat.
Summer Solstice (EST)		June 21	Sunday
Martyrdom of the Báb	Bahá'i	July 8-9*	Wed.-Thurs.

**Holy days start at sundown of beginning date and end at sundown or nightfall of concluding date.*

#All dates are from Fiqh Council of North America adopted Islamic Calendar. For events based on sightability of the moon in North America, those denoted with "#" will be the next day from these dates.