

University Religious Holiday Policy

Updated Policy Adopted by the Faculty Senate November 13, 2020

The Faculty Senate has set guidelines pertaining to the observation of religious holidays. These have become university policy and are as follows:

1. Students must notify faculty during the first week of the semester as early as possible, but no later than three weeks prior to the absence, of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance. If the holiday falls in the first three weeks of class, the student must inform the faculty within the first week of the semester that they are enrolled in the course.
2. To the greatest extent possible, faculty must continue to extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday must arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities.
4. Prior to each semester, the administration must circulate to faculty a schedule of religious holidays most frequently observed by GW students.
5. Student members of all religious groups are entitled to the same courtesies and accommodations.
6. The administration conveys this policy to students by including it in the Schedule of Classes and other places deemed appropriate.

Final Examination Conflict Policy

1. There must be written regulation affirming the University policy to have one final examination rescheduled if a student has three or more final examinations scheduled on the same day.

2. To the greatest extent possible and without interfering with the integrity of the exam, students who are observing a religious holiday during the final examination period shall be allowed to have any examination rescheduled that conflicts with their day(s) of religious observance. In the case that a student is observing a religious holiday that coincides with the entirety of the examination period, the student shall be allowed to reschedule necessary examinations to alternative days/times to eliminate the need to take more than one final examination in a given day.
3. The rescheduling must take place at least three weeks prior to the last day of classes and, whenever possible, the make-up examination be rescheduled during the examination period.
4. The rescheduling must be achieved in consultation with the instructors involved and, whenever possible, the student selects which examination to reschedule.

2020-2021 Religious Holiday Calendar:

Holiday	Date	Week Day	Faith
Eid al-Adha	July 30th - August 3rd	Thursday - Monday	Islamic
Krishna Janmashtami	August 11th	Tuesday	Hindu
Assumption of the Blessed Mother (Holy Day of Obligation)	August 15th	Saturday	Catholic

Paryushana	August 16th - August 23rd	Sunday - Sunday	Jain
Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	August 19th - August 20th	Wednesday - Thursday	Islamic
Onam	August 22nd - September 2nd	Saturday - Wednesday	Hindu
Ganesh Chaturthi	August 22nd	Saturday	Hindu
Ashura	August 28th - August 29th	Friday - Saturday	Islamic

Rosh Hashanah	September 18th - September 20th	Friday - Sunday	Jewish
Meskal	September 28th	Monday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Navratri	October 17th - October 26th	Saturday - Monday	Hindu
Yom Kippur	September 27th - September 28th	Sunday - Monday	Jewish
Sukkot	October 2nd - October 9th	Friday - Friday	Jewish
Shmini Atzeret	October 9th - October 11th	Friday - Sunday	Jewish
Simchat Torah	October 10th - October 11th	Saturday - Sunday	Jewish
Installation of Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	October 16th	Friday	Sikh
Birth of B'ab	October 18th	Sunday	Baha'i
Birth of Baha'u'llah	October 19th	Monday	Baha'i
Dussehra (Dasara)	October 25th	Sunday	Hindu
Mawlid-an-Nabi	October 28th - October 29th	Wednesday - Thursday	Islamic
All Saint's Day (Catholic Holy Day of Obligation)	November 1st	Sunday	Catholic/ Christian

Deepavali (Diwali)	November 14th	Saturday	Hindu
Bandi Chhor Diwas	November 14th	Saturday	Sikh
Jain New Year	November 15th	Sunday	Jain
Day of the Covenant	November 24th - November 25th	Tuesday - Wednesday	Baha'i
Guru Nanak's Birthday	November 30th	Monday	Sikh

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Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)	December 8th	Tuesday	Catholic
Hanukkah/ Chanukah	December 10th - December 18th	Thursday - Friday	Jewish
The Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) / Christmas	December 25th	Friday	Christian/ Catholic
Epiphany	January 6th	Wednesday	Christian
Feast of the Nativity (Russian Orthodox Christmas)	January 7th	Thursday	Eastern Orthodox Christian
Pongal/Sankranti	January 14th	Thursday	Hindu
Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday	January 20th	Wednesday	Sikh
Bodhi Day	January 21st	Thursday	Buddhist
Timkat	January 19th	Tuesday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year	February 12th	Friday	N/A
Ash Wednesday	February 17th	Wednesday	Christian/ Catholic
Purim	February 25th - February 26th	Thursday - Friday	Jewish
Maha Shivaratri	March 11th	Thursday	Hindu
Nineteen-Day Fast	March 1st - March 19th	Monday - Friday	Baha'i
Nowruz (Persian New Year)	March 21st - March 22nd	Sunday - Monday	N/A
Pesach (Passover) - first two days	March 27th - March 28th	Saturday - Sunday	Jewish
Palm Sunday	March 28th	Sunday	Christian/ Catholic
Holika Dahan	March 28th	Sunday	Hindu

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Holika Dahan - Holi	March 29th	Monday	Hindu
Holy Thursday	April 1st	Thursday	Christian/Catholic
Good Friday	April 2nd	Friday	Christian/ Catholic
Pesach (passover) - last two days	April 3rd - April 4th	Saturday - Sunday	Jewish
Easter (Western)	April 4th	Sunday	Christian/ Catholic
Ramadan	April 12th - May 11th	Monday - Tuesday	Islamic
Ugadi	April 13th	Tuesday	Hindu
Vaisakhi	April 14th	Wednesday	Sikh
Ram Navami	April 21st	Wednesday	Hindu
Hanuman Jayanti	April 26th - April 27th	Monday - Tuesday	Hindu
Good Friday (Orthodox)	April 30th	Friday	Orthodox Christian
Easter (Orthodox)	May 2nd	Sunday	Orthodox Christian
Eid al-Fitr	May 13th	Thursday	Islamic
Shavuot	May 16th - May 18th	Sunday - Tuesday	Jewish
Birth of Buddha (Wesak)	May 19th	Wednesday	Buddhist