

### **University Religious Holiday Policy**

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.

**2023 - 2024 Religious Holiday Calendar:**

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Faith</b>
Ashura	July 27 – 28	Sundown Thursday- Sundown Friday	Islamic
Feast of the Assumption (Holy Day of Obligation)	August 15	Tuesday	Catholic
Onam	August 20 – 31	Sunday - Thursday	Hindu
Installation of Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	September 1	Friday	Sikh
Krishna Janmashtami	September 6 – 7	Wednesday - Thursday	Hindu
Paryushana	September 11 – 18	Monday - Monday	Jain
Rosh Hashanah	September 15 – 17	Sundown Friday- Sundown Sunday	Jewish
Ganesh Chaturthi	September 19	Tuesday	Hindu
Daslakshan	September 19 – 28	Tuesday - Thursday	Jain
Yom Kippur	September 24 – 25	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Monday	Jewish
Mawlid-an-Nabi	September 26 – 27	Sundown Tuesday- Sundown Wednesday	Islamic
Meskal	September 28	Thursday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Sukkot	September 29 – October 6	Sundown Friday- Sundown Friday	Jewish
Shemini Atzeret	October 6 – 8	Sundown Friday - Sundown Sunday	Jewish
Simchat Torah	October 7 – 8	Sundown Saturday - Sundown Sunday	Jewish

Navratri	October 15 – 24	Sunday - Tuesday	Hindu
Birth of Báb	October 16	Monday	Baha'i
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	October 17	Tuesday	Baha'i
Dussehra (Dasara)	October 24	Tuesday	Hindu

All Saint's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)	November 1	Wednesday	Christian/Catholic
Deepavali (Diwali)	November 12	Sunday	Hindu, Jain
Bandi Chhor Divas	November 12	Sunday	Sikh
Jain (Gujarati) New Year	November 13	Monday	Jain, N/A, Other
Day of the Covenant	November 25 – 26	Sundown Saturday - Sundown Sunday	Baha'i
Guru Nanak Jayanti	November 27	Monday	Sikh
Hanukkah/ Chanukah	December 7 – 15	Sundown Thursday - Sundown Friday	Jewish
Bodhi Day	December 8	Friday	Buddhist
Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)	December 8	Friday	Catholic
Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)	December 25	Monday	Catholic/Christian
Epiphany	January 6, 2024	Saturday	Christian
Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christmas)	January 7	Sunday	Eastern Orthodox Christian
Pongal/Sankranti	January 15	Monday	Hindu
Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	January 17	Wednesday	Sikh
Timkat	January 20	Saturday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

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Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year	February 10	Saturday	Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism/Other/N/A
Ash Wednesday	February 14	Wednesday	Christian/Catholic
Nineteen-Day Fast	March 1 – 19	Sundown Friday - Sundown Tuesday	Baha'i
Maha Shivaratri	March 8	Friday	Hindu
Ramadan	March 10 – April 8	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Monday	Islamic
Nowruz (Persian New Year)	March 21	Thursday	N/A/Baha'i/ Islamic
Purim	March 23 – 24	Sundown Saturday - Sundown Sunday	Jewish
Palm Sunday	March 24	Sunday	Christian/Catholic
Holika Dahan	March 24	Sunday	Hindu
Holi	March 25	Monday	Hindu
Holy Thursday	March 28	Thursday	Christian/Catholic
Good Friday (Western)	March 29	Friday	Christian/Catholic
Easter (Western)	March 31	Sunday	Christian/Catholic
Ugadi	April 9	Tuesday	Hindu
Eid al-Fitr	April 9 – 10	Sundown Tuesday - Sundown Wednesday	Islamic
Vaisakhi	April 13	Saturday	Sikh
Ram Navami	April 17	Wednesday	Hindu
Mahavir Jayanti	April 21	Sunday	Jain
Pesach (Passover) – first two days	April 22 – 23	Sundown Monday - Sundown Tuesday	Jewish
Hanuman Jayanti	April 23	Tuesday	Hindu

Pesach (Passover) – last two days	April 29 – 30	Sundown Monday – Sundown Tuesday	Jewish
Good Friday (Orthodox)	May 3	Friday	Orthodox Christian
Easter (Orthodox)	May 5	Sunday	Orthodox Christian

Birth of Buddha (Wesak)	May 23	Thursday	Buddhist
Shavuot	June 11 – 13	Sundown Tuesday- Sundown Thursday	Jewish
Eid al-Adha	June 16 – 17	Sundown Sunday- Sundown Monday	Islamic
Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	July 7 – 8	Sundown Sunday- Sundown Monday	Islamic

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