

Religious Observance Policy and 2024-2025 Calendar

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 day 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 observance days 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 as 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 exam on 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.

2024 - 2025 Religious Observance Calendar

Holiday	Date	Weekday	Faith
Feast of the Assumption (Holy Day of Obligation)	August 15	Thursday	Catholic
Krishna Janmashtami	August 26	Monday	Hindu
Paryushana	August 31 – September 7	Saturday - Saturday	Jain
Onam	September 6 - 15	Friday - Sunday	Hindu
Ganesh Chaturthi	September 7	Saturday	Hindu
Daslakshan	September 8 - 17	Sunday - Tuesday	Jain
Mawlid an Nabi	September 15 – 16	Sundown Sunday - Monday	Islamic
Meskel	September 27	Friday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
Rosh Hashanah	October 2 - 4	Sundown Wednesday- Sundown Friday	Jewish
Yom Kippur	October 11 – 12	Sundown Friday - Sundown Saturday	Jewish
Sukkot	October 16 – October 23	Sundown Wednesday- Sundown Wednesday	Jewish
Installation of Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	October 20	Sunday	Sikh
Shemini Atzeret	October 23 - 24	Sundown Wednesday- Sundown Thursday	Jewish
Simchat Torah	October 24 - 25	Sundown Thursday - Sundown Friday	Jewish

Navaratri	October 3 – 12	Thursday - Saturday	Hindu
Dussehra (Dasara)	October 12	Saturday	Hindu
Deepavali (Diwali)	November 1	Friday	Hindu, Jain
All Saint's Day (Holy Day of Obligation)	November 1	Friday	Christian/Catholic
Bandi Chhor Divas	November 1	Friday	Sikh
Birth of Báb	November 2	Saturday	Baha'i
Jain (Gujarati) New Year	November 2	Saturday	Jain, Other
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	November 3	Sunday	Baha'i
Guru Nanak Jayanti	November 15	Friday	Sikh
Day of the Covenant	November 24 – 25	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Monday	Baha'i
Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)	December 8	Sunday	Catholic
Hanukkah/ Chanukah	December 25 – January 2	Sundown Wednesday - Sundown Thursday	Jewish
Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation)	December 25	Wednesday	Catholic/Christian
Epiphany	January 6, 2025	Monday	Christian
Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	January 6	Monday	Hindu
Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christmas)	January 7	Tuesday	Eastern Orthodox Christian
Pongal/Sankranti	January 14	Tuesday	Sikh
Timkat	January 19	Sunday	Ethiopian Orthodox Christian

Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year	January 29	Wednesday	Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism/Other
Maha Shivaratri	February 26	Wednesday	Hindu
Nineteen-Day Fast	March 1 - 19	Saturday - Wednesday	Baha'i
Ramadan	February 28 – March 30	Sundown Friday - Sundown Sunday	Islamic
Ash Wednesday	March 5	Wednesday	Christian/Catholic
Holika Dahan	March 13	Thursday	Hindu
Holi	March 14	Friday	Hindu
Purim	March 13 – 14	Sundown Thursday - Sundown Friday	Jewish
Nowruz (Persian New Year)	March 20	Thursday	N/A/Baha'i/ Islamic
Ugadi	March 30	Sunday	Hindu
Eid al-Fitr	March 30 - 31	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Monday	Islamic
Ram Navami	April 6	Sunday	Hindu
Mahavir Jayanti	April 10	Thursday	Jain
Pesach (Passover) – first two days	April 13 – 14	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Monday	Jewish
Palm Sunday	April 13	Sunday	Christian/Catholic
Vaisakhi	April 14	Monday	Sikh
Holy Thursday	April 17	Thursday	Christian/Catholic
Good Friday (Western)	April 18	Friday	Christian/Catholic
Good Friday (Orthodox)	April 18	Friday	Orthodox Christian
Easter (Western)	April 20	Sunday	Christian/Catholic
Easter (Orthodox)	April 20	Sunday	Orthodox Christian

Pesach (Passover) – last two days	April 19 – 20	Sundown Saturday- Sundown Sunday	Jewish
Hanuman Jayanti	April 23	Tuesday	Hindu
Birth of Buddha (Wesak)	May 12	Monday	Buddhist
Shavuot	June 1 – 3	Sundown Sunday - Sundown Tuesday	Jewish
Eid al-Adha	June 6 – 7	Sundown Friday- Sundown Saturday	Islamic
Al-Hijra (Islamic New Year)	June 26 - 27	Sundown Thursday- Sundown Friday	Islamic