

## Calendar of Religious Holidays for 2008-2009 Academic Year

### *2008-2009 Fall Semester*

Date (Time)	Name of Holiday	Religion	Work Forbidden
Every week from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown.	<b>Shabbat: Jewish Sabbath.</b> (Also observed by several Christian denominations, the largest being the 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist)	Jewish	*
August 10	Tisha Beau	Jewish	
August 15	Lailat al Bara'a	Islamic	
August 16	Raksha Bandhan	Hindu	
August 24	Krishna Janmashtami	Hindu	
August 28	Paryushana	Jain	
<b>Sept. 1-Sept. 30</b>	Ramadan	Islamic	Day time fast
September 3	Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu	
September 22	Autumnal Equinox	--	
September 26	Lailat al Kadr	Islamic	
September 26	Quds Days	Islamic	
Sept. 29, 6:48 pm	Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	Jewish	*
Sept. 29 (Lasts for 9 days)	Navarati	Hindu	
September 30	Rosh Hashanah I	Jewish	*
October 1	Rosh Hashanah II	Jewish	*
October 1	Eid al-Fitr*	Islamic	
October 8, 6:48pm	Yom Kippur begins at sundown	Jewish	*
October 9	Yom Kippur	Jewish	*
October 9	Dussehra	Hindu	
October 9	Dasera – Hindu	Hindu	
October 13, 6:43 pm	Sukkot begins at sundown	Jewish	*
October 14	Sukkot I	Jewish	*
October 15	Sukkot II	Jewish	*
October 20	Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab	Baha'i	*
October 21	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish	*
October 22	Simchat Torah	Jewish	*
October 28	Diwali	Hindu/Jain	
November 12	Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	*
November 13	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib	Sikh	
November 27	Thanksgiving	Orthodox Christian	
December 7	Waqf al Arafa	Islamic	
December 8	Bodhi Day	Buddhist	
December 8-9	Eid al-Adha	Islamic	
December 21	Winter Solstice	Pagan / Earth based	
December 22-29	Hanukah	Jewish	
December 25	Feast of Nativity	Orthodox Christian	
December 25	Christmas	Orthodox Christian	
Dec. 26- Jan. 1	Kwanzaa	Christian/ Afro-American	
December 28-29	Al-Hijra (Muhharam / New Year)	Islamic	

## 2008-2009 Spring Semester

Date (Time)	Name of Holiday	Religion	Work Forbidden
Every week from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown.	<b>Shabbat: Jewish Sabbath.</b> (Also observed by several Christian denominations, the largest being the 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist)	Jewish	*
January 1	Gantan-sai (New Years)	Shinto	
January 7	Nativity of Christ	Orthodox Christian	
January 14	Makar Sankranti	Hindu	
January 19	Ashura	Islamic	
January 26	Chinese New Year –	Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist	
January 26	Asian Lunar New Year (Year of the Ox)	--	
February 9	Tu Bishvat	Jewish	
February 25	Ash Wednesday	Orthodox Christian	
February 25 (Lasts for 46 days)	Lent	Orthodox Christian	
March 8-9	Mawlid-al-Nabi (Muhammed's Birthday)	Islamic	
March 10	Purim	Jewish	
March 11	Holi	Hindu	
March 21	Vernal Equinox	--	
March 21	Feast of Naw-Ruz (New Year)	Baha'i	*
April 5	Palm Sunday	Orthodox Christian	
April 8 7:34 pm	Passover begins at sundown	Jewish	*
April 9	Holy Thursday	Orthodox Christian	
April 9 & 10	Passover (first two days)	Jewish	*
April 10	Good Friday	Orthodox Christian	
April 11	Holy Saturday	Orthodox Christian	
April 12	Easter	Orthodox Christian	
April 13	Ram Navami	Hindu	
April 14 7:37 pm	Passover last two days begins at sundown	Jewish	*
April 15 & 16	Passover final 2 days	Jewish	*
April 19	Pascha	Orthodox Christian	
April 21	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Ridvan	Baha'i	*
April 21	Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jewish	
April 29	9 <sup>th</sup> Day of Ridvan	Baha'i	*
April 29	Israel's Independence Day	Jewish	
May 2	12 <sup>th</sup> Day of Ridvan	Baha'i	*
May 2	Vesak	Buddhist	
May 9	Buddha Day	Buddhist	
May 12	Lag Baomer	Jewish	
May 23	Anniv. of the Declaration of the Bab	Baha'i	*
May 28 8:05 pm	Shavu'ot begins at sundown	Jewish	
May 29 & 30	Shavu'ot	Jewish	*
May 29	Anniversary of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah	Baha'i	*
June 21	Summer Solstice	Pagan / Earth based	*
June 24	Rath Yatra	Hindu	
July 7	Asalha Puja	Buddhist	
July 9	Anniversary Martyrdom of the Bab	Baha'i	
July 19	Lailat al Miraj	Islamic	*

--	--	--	--

Calendar covers the following religious groups: Baha'i Faith, Catholic, Episcopalian, Jewish, Lutheran, Muslim, Orthodox Christian, Buddhist, Jain, Hindu and Pagan.<sup>1</sup>

**\*Non-Work Days.** The religious holidays listed below have been designated non-work days by the religions that celebrate them. If not indicated as such, work is not strictly forbidden.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Jewish Holidays begin at sunset on the day preceding the given date. Baha'i holidays begin at sunset on the day preceding the given date. Baha'is also observe 19 days of fasting (Mar 2-21). Work is not forbidden, but because of the fasting, exams may be easier to take in the morning or evening.

Orthodox Christian holidays. Most Orthodox Christians would also be excused from work obligations on Christmas and Thanksgiving.

Islamic holiday dates are approximate. The official days can be plus/minus one day and depend on upon the physical sighting of the new moon. This can be confirmed at the time by referring to [www.islamoncampus.com](http://www.islamoncampus.com) or [www.icgcommunity.org](http://www.icgcommunity.org)

Chinese New Year is an important religious and cultural holidays for Asians.

---

<sup>1</sup> Calendar compiled by Kamaria Jordan and Multicultural and Diversity Affairs. Please contact Tamara Cohen, Director of MCDA at (352) 392-1261 for further information. Also see Interfaith Calendar at [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org).