

## Quick Reference to High Holy Days 2012-2013 Academic Year

### July 2012

20      Ramadan \* (Begins a month of fasting)      Islam/Muslim

### August 2012

19      Eid al Fitr \* (End of Ramadan)      Islam/Muslim

### September 2012

16      Erev Rosh Hashanah (Eve of the Jewish New Year)      Jewish  
17-18      Rosh Hashanah \* (The Jewish New Year) (*2<sup>nd</sup> day observance varies*)      Jewish  
25      Kol Nidre (Eve of Day of Atonement)      Jewish  
26      Yom Kippur \* (Day of Atonement)      Jewish

### October 2012

26      Eid ul-Adha \* (*During Fall Break*)      Islam/Muslim

### November 2012

13      Diwali \* (*Generally celebrated in evening*)      Hindu, Jain, Sikh

### December 2012

### January 2013

### February 2013

13      Ash Wednesday      Christian

### March 2013

10      Mahashivaratri      Hindu  
27      Holi (*Generally celebrated in evening*) (*During Spring Break*)      Hindu  
25      Erev Pesach/Passover \* (*During Spring Break*)      Jewish  
26      Passover \* (*2<sup>nd</sup> night*) (*During Spring Break*)      Jewish  
29      Good Friday \* (*During Spring Break*)      Christian  
31      Easter \* (*Sunday*) (*During Spring Break*)      Christian

### April 2013

### May 2013

~ = Jewish holy days begin and end at sunset.

O = Certain Hindu and Muslim holy days are calculated on a lunar calendar and are approximate.

\* = High Holy Day.

## Calendar of Religious Observance 2012-2013 Academic Year

### Religious Observances: Fall Semester 2012

Holy Day	What it is	Description
Friday, July 20, 2012 <b>First Day of Ramadan</b> (Islam/Muslim)	Beginning of Ramadan	Celebrated with special evening prayers at the Mosque. Also, one would prepare a special meal eaten just before sunrise to help toward the upcoming fast. Those who travel to a mosque for prayer would be away from campus most of July 20 <sup>th</sup> and part of July 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, August 19, 2012 <b>Ramadan</b> (Islam/Muslim)	A month of fasting	For the entire month of Ramadan (sundown July 20 <sup>th</sup> - sundown August 19 <sup>th</sup> ), Muslims fast – abstain from food and drink – from sunrise to sunset. The last 10 days include all night prayer vigils in some traditions. Those observing Ramadan can still attend classes.
Sunday, August 19, 2012 <b>Eid al-Fitr</b> (Muslim)	The Last Day of Ramadan	A celebratory meal takes place on the evening of August 19 <sup>th</sup> . Also, many would travel to the mosque on August 20 <sup>th</sup> for early morning prayers. Those traveling to a mosque for prayer would be away from campus the entire day of August 20 <sup>th</sup> .
Sunday, September 16, 2012 <b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> (Jewish)	Eve of the Jewish New Year	At sundown on September 16 <sup>th</sup> , all labor – school, work, travel – is ceased.
Monday, September 17, 2012 - Tuesday, September 18, 2012 <b>Rosh Hashanah</b> (Jewish)	The Jewish New Year	One of the holiest days of the year on which labor is prohibited. It is regarded as a time to begin introspection, acknowledge the mistakes of the past year and plan the changes to make in the new year. A service is held on the evening of September 16 <sup>th</sup> , and in the morning and afternoon of September 17 <sup>th</sup> . Those traveling to a synagogue or home for this holiday will have to arrive before sundown on September 16 <sup>th</sup> – the time when all labor must cease – and since the holiday ends at sundown on the 18 <sup>th</sup> , would be away from campus until September 19 <sup>th</sup> .
Tuesday, September 25, 2012 <b>Kol Nidre</b> (Jewish)	Eve of Day of Atonement	The Day of Atonement, the end of the 10 Days of Awe, is devoted to prayer, repentance and fasting. The Sabbath of Sabbaths in the Jewish calendar, it is the most widely observed Jewish holiday of the year.
Wednesday, September 26, 2012 <b>Yom Kippur</b> (Jewish)	Day of Atonement	At sundown on September 25 <sup>th</sup> , a full fast – no water or food – begins and lasts for 25 hours. At this time, all labor – school, work, travel – ceases. Those traveling to a synagogue or home must arrive by sundown on September 25 <sup>th</sup> , so would be away from campus September 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> .
Monday, October 1, 2012 - Sunday, October 7, 2012 <b>Sukkot</b> (Jewish)	The Feast of Tabernacles	Commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God took special care of them under impossible conditions. Sukkot lasts for seven days, and work is not permitted on the first two days.

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## Calendar of Religious Observance 2012-2013 Academic Year

*Continued...Religious Observances: Fall Semester 2012*

Holy Day	What it is	Description
Friday, October 26, 2012 <b>Eid ul-Adha</b> (Islam/Muslim)	Abraham's Obedience to God	This holy day marks the end of the Hajj (annual pilgrimage to Mecca) – a time when Muslims commemorate the trials and triumphs of Prophet Abraham. Special prayers are held at the mosque on the morning of October 26 <sup>th</sup> and an evening feast is held the same day. Those traveling to the mosque would be away from campus the entire day of October 26 <sup>th</sup> .
Thursday, November 1, 2012 <b>Samhain</b> (Pagan)	Pagan New Year	A ritual will be held – often, but not always – in the evening. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on October 31st.
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 <b>Diwali</b> (Hindu)	Festival of Lights	Those celebrating may wake up before dawn to pray at a temple. An evening feast also occurs. Those traveling to a temple for Puja – traditional ritual worship – may be away from campus the evening of November 12 <sup>th</sup> and all day November 13 <sup>th</sup> .
Saturday, December 08, 2012 <b>Bodhi Day</b> (Buddhist)	Buddha's enlightenment	A full day of remembrance and meditation. Those traveling to a temple for meditation would be away from campus the entire day of December 8th.
Sunday, December 9, 2012 - Sunday, December 16, 2012 <b>Hanukkah</b> (Jewish)	Festival of Lights	Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights and marks the restoration of the temple by the Maccabees in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is celebrated at roughly the same time as Christmas, but there is no connection at all between the festivals.

## Calendar of Religious Observance 2012-2013 Academic Year

### Religious Observances: Spring Semester 2013

Holy Day	What it is	Description
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> (Christian)	Day of Repentance	A somber service is held. Some may fast – abstain from food and drink – for the entire day.
Sunday, March 10, 2013 <b>Maha Shivaratri</b> (Hindu)	Great Night of Shiva	In a spirit of devotion, fasting, prayer, and keeping vigil begins late evening/early morning of March 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> . Those traveling to a temple for puja – ritual worship – would be away from campus the entire day of March 10 <sup>th</sup> .
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 <b>Pesach/Passover</b> (Jewish)	Festival of Freedom	Beginning at sundown on March 26 <sup>th</sup> , students refrain from eating bread and grain/yeast and legumes products until the evening of April 3 <sup>rd</sup> . On March 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , labor ceases and special services are held. A Seder – meal with extended ritual – is held the evening of March 26 <sup>th</sup> . In some traditions, the last two nights, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> , also have services. Those traveling to a synagogue, temple, or home for services would be away from campus March 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , and April 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> .
Wednesday, March 27, 2013 <b>Holi</b> (Hindu)	Festival of Colors	Celebrating the arrival of spring. Those traveling to a temple would be away from campus March 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Friday, March 29, 2013 <b>Good Friday</b> (Christian)	Jesus' Death	A somber service is held. Some may fast from Good Friday until Easter – March 29 <sup>th</sup> until March 31 <sup>st</sup> . Those traveling to services would be away from campus the entire day, and in some cases would not return until after Easter on March 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Sunday, March 31, 2013 <b>Easter</b> (Christian)	Jesus' Resurrection	A joyful service is held. Those traveling to a church or home for this holiday would be away from campus March 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Wednesday, May 01, 2013 <b>Beltane</b> (Pagan)	May Day	A celebratory ritual is held. Those traveling to a Pagan community gathering would be away from campus on May 1 <sup>st</sup> .