



Office of the Chaplain

August 2022

Dear Penn Faculty & Staff,

As we all look ahead to our plans for the new academic year, we ask that you review the attached information on secular and religious holidays. This message includes the full text of the recently updated Policy on Secular & Religious Holidays, along with a calendar that, though not exhaustive, provides the dates of many holidays of importance to our community. This information can also be found in full on [our website](#).

As a reminder, University policy states that “no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required” on certain holidays. Please note that the policy has recently been updated to include Election Day in this category. In 2022-23 no exams or assignments may be required on the following dates:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Tradition</i>
9/25/22-9/27/22*	Sun-Tues	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
10/4/22-10/5/22*	Tues-Wed	Yom Kippur	Jewish
11/8/22	Tues	Election Day	Secular
12/25/22	Sun	Christmas	Christian
4/5/23-4/13/23*	Wed-Thurs (9 days)	Passover	Jewish
No exams or assigned work may be required from the evening of 4/5 through 4/7			
4/7/23	Fri	Good Friday	Christian

* - indicates holiday begins at sunset on the first date given.

Also, students may request alternative arrangements for any other holiday of importance to them in accordance with section 3 of the policy. Students may observe these holidays in a range of ways that might impact their schedules, including fasting, attending religious services, and refraining from work. We understand that it is not possible to schedule to avoid all conflicts, and so we encourage you to invite students to make any such alternative arrangements as early as possible. We will also be working with our campus religious communities to share this expectation with our students.

We know that for many of our students and staff their observance of these holidays provides opportunity for balance and spiritual support, much needed in our busy times. We encourage you to be as supportive of requests for accommodations as you are able. As always, our office is available to you as a resource should questions arise.

Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for the year to come.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Charles Howard, PhD
University Chaplain
Vice President, Social Equity & Community
choward@upenn.edu

Stephen Kocher
Senior Associate Chaplain
Director, Spiritual & Religious Life Center
skocher@upenn.edu

2022-23 Calendar of Secular and Religious Holidays

Fall 2022			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Tradition</i>
8/23-8/31	Tues-Wed (9 days)	Paryushan	Jain
8/30	Tues	Sri Ganesh Chaturthi	Hindu
8/31-9/9	Wed-Fri (9 days)	Das Lakshan	Jain
9/5	Mon	Labor Day	Secular
9/25-9/27*	Sun-Tues	Rosh Hashanah	Jewish
9/26-10/4	Mon-Tues (9 days)	Navaratri	Hindu
10/4-10/5*	Tues-Wed	Yom Kippur	Jewish
10/7-10/8*	Fri-Sat	Mawlid an-Nabi (Sunni)	Muslim
10/9-10/16*	Sun-Sun	Sukkot	Jewish
10/10	Mon	Indigenous Peoples' Day	Secular
10/12-10/13*	Wed-Thurs	Mawlid an-Nabi (Shia)	Muslim
10/16-10/17*	Sun-Mon	Shemini Atzeret	Jewish
10/17-10/18*	Mon-Tues	Simchat Torah	Jewish
10/24	Mon	Diwali	Hindu/Jain
10/25-10/26*	Tues-Wed	Birth of the Báb	Baha'i
10/26-10/27*	Wed-Thurs	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Baha'i
10/29	Sat	Gyana Panchami	Jain
11/8	Tues	Election Day	Secular
11/24-11/25	Thurs-Fri	Thanksgiving	Secular
12/18-12/26*	Sun-Mon (9 days)	Hanukkah	Jewish
12/25	Sun	Christmas	Christian

Spring/Summer 2023			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Tradition</i>
1/1	Sun	New Year's Day	Secular
1/7	Sat	Christmas	Orthodox Christian
1/16	Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Secular
1/22	Sun	Chinese New Year	Chinese
1/26	Thurs	Vasant Panchami/Saraswati Puja	Hindu
2/18	Sat	Maha Shivaratri	Hindu
2/22	Wed	Ash Wednesday	Christian
3/6-3/7*	Mon-Tues	Purim	Jewish
3/7	Tues	Holi	Hindu
3/20-3/21	Mon-Tues	Naw-Rúz	Baha'i
3/22-4/20*	Wed-Thurs (30 days)	Ramadan	Muslim
3/30	Thurs	Rama Navami	Hindu
4/4	Tues	Mahavir Jayanti	Jain
4/5-4/13*	Wed-Thurs (9 days)	Passover	Jewish
No exams or assigned work may be required from the evening of 4/5 through 4/7			
4/7, 4/9	Fri, Sun	Good Friday, Easter Sunday	Christian
4/14, 4/16	Fri, Sun	Good Friday, Easter Sunday	Orthodox Christian
4/17-4/18*	Mon-Tues	Yom HaShoah	Jewish
4/20-5/2*	Thurs-Tues (13 days)	Ridván	Baha'i
4/20-4/21*	Thurs-Fri	Eid al-Fitr	Muslim
5/16**	Tues	Vesak (Buddha Day)	Buddhist
5/25-5/27*	Thurs-Sat	Shavuot	Jewish
5/29	Mon	Memorial Day	Secular
6/19	Mon	Juneteenth	Secular
6/27-6/28*	Tues-Wed	Eid al-Adha	Muslim
7/4	Tues	Independence Day	Secular
7/18-7/19*	Tues-Wed	Islamic New Year	Muslim
7/26-7/27*	Wed-Thurs	Ashura	Muslim

Bold – no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required on these days

* - indicates holiday begins at sunset on the first date given

Muslim dates are based on lunar sightings and may vary from those listed

** - date of observance varies by country, UN observance date listed

Policy on Secular and Religious Holidays

1. The University recognizes/observes the following secular holidays: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, July 4, Thanksgiving and the day after, Labor Day, and New Year's Day.
2. The University also recognizes that there are several secular and religious holidays that affect large numbers of University community members, including Christmas, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Election Day in November, the first two days of Passover, and Good Friday. In consideration of their significance for many students, no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required on these days. Students who observe these holidays will be given an opportunity to make up missed work in both laboratories and lecture courses. If an examination is given on the first class day after one of these holidays, it must not cover material introduced in class on that holiday.

Faculty should realize that Jewish holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the published date of the holiday. Late afternoon exams should be avoided on these days. Also, no examinations may be held on Saturdays or Sundays in the undergraduate schools unless they are also available on other days. Nor should seminars or other regular classes be scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays unless they are also available at other times.

3. The University recognizes that there are other holidays, both religious and secular, which are of importance to some individuals and groups on campus. Such occasions include, but are not limited to, Sukkot, the last two days of Passover, Shavuot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, Chinese New Year, the Muslim New Year, Diwali, Navaratri, Rama Navami, Paryushan, and the Islamic holidays Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha. Students who wish to observe such holidays must inform their instructors within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday even when the exact date of the holiday will not be known until later so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity. Students who make such arrangements will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. For this reason it is desirable that faculty inform students of all examination dates at the start of each semester. Exceptions to the requirement of a make-up examination must be approved in advance by the undergraduate dean of the school in which the course is offered.

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