

Holiday Calendar- Spring 2025 Semester

The CAS Department seeks to promote awareness of significant cultural, religious, and secular holidays that are celebrated by members of its community, including CAS faculty, staff, and students. This calendar is intended to help faculty plan their semesters and consider the placement of high-stakes evaluations, such as exams, student presentations, and projects.

The list of holidays is not exhaustive. We have tried to highlight events with possible significant impact on course activities and/or of import to one or more cultural groups. If you notice an error or omission, we encourage you to achn out to the CAS Department.

Presenting a cultural calendar is complicated by the use of different time systems. The normative US system is a solar calendar, in which holidays start in the morning (when the sun rises). Semitic religions and some Asian religions use a lunar calendar, in which holidays start in the evening (when the moon rises). As a result, holiday observance for lunar calendar events begins on the night before the event (<https://tamidnyc.org/20-lunar-time-vs-solar-time/>).

Event	Day	Date	Impact/Expectations	Information
New Year's Day	Wed	Jan 1	Campus closed	The first day of the common, US solar calendar.
World Religion Day	Sun	Jan 19	Varies	Bahai/interfaith holiday
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Mon	Jan 19	Campus closed	Martin Luther King's Birthday. Observed on the 3 rd Monday in January.
Lunar New Year	Wed	Jan 29	Varies	Celebration of the beginning of the lunar calendar; an important holiday for many people especially those of Asian ancestry
Lincoln's Birthday	Mon	Feb 10	K-12 schools may be closed	
Lailat a Bara-ah	Fri	Feb 14	Varies; Muslims may be absent. Campus closed	Islamic "Night of Forgiveness" (begins at sundown on 2/24).
Nirvana Day	Sat	Feb 15	Varies	Celebration of Buddha's Parinirvana, upon his death.
President's Day	Mon	Feb 17	K-12 schools may be closed	Recognition of all past presidents of the US.
Nineteen-Day Fast		Feb 28 to Mar 19	Varies; Bahai may need accommodation to break their fast at sundown (e.g., permission to eat during class).	Bahai holiday involving sunrise-to-sunset fasting and prayer. Ends with the feast of Nowruz.
Ramadan		Feb 28 to Mar 29	Varies; Muslims may need accommodation to break their fast at sundown (e.g., permission to eat during class).	Islamic holiday to commemorate receipt of the Qur'an. Observers engage in month-long sunrise-to-sunset fasting.
Ash Wednesday	Wed	Mar 5	Varies; Catholics/Christians may be absent	Lent Begins: observers may attend religious services
St. Patrick's Day		Mar 17	Varies	Originally a Christian holiday commemorating the patron saint of Ireland. In the US, a secular holiday.

Event	Day	Date	Impact/Expectations	Information
Holi	Fri	Mar 14	Varies	Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. Observed sundown (the rising of the full moon) to dusk the next day.
Nowruz (Nawruz)	Thurs	Mar 20	Varies	Bahai holiday/Persian New Year marking the beginning of the year at the spring equinox.
Eid al-Fitr	Web	Mar 29	Muslims may be absent	The breaking of the fast at the end of Ramadan.
Cesar Chavez Day	Mon	Mar 31	Campus Closed	Honors Cesar Chavez, a US social rights leader and co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association.
Spring Break		Mar 31 to Apr 8	No classes held	
Day of Silence	Fri	Apr 11	Varies; individuals may refrain from speaking	Commemorating lack of attention to LGBTQIA individuals, participating individuals may refrain from speaking or communicating.
Pesach (Passover)		Apr 12 (eve) to Apr 20	Varies; Jews may be absent on first night (4/12), second night (4/13), and/or last night (4/19).	Jewish feast of unleavened bread celebrates freedom from slavery. For many, the preceding day (4/12/2024) is the most likely day that an absence will occur (for preparation and travel).
Palm Sunday	Sun	Apr 13		Christian holiday to mark the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the Sunday before Good Friday.
Good Friday (Holy Friday)	Fri	Apr 18	Varies; Christians may be absent	Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus.
Easter	Sun	Apr 20	Varies; Christians may be absent	Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.
Rivdan		Apr 20 to May 2	Varies; Bahai may be absent on Day 1 (4/20), Day 9 (4/28), and Day 12 (5/1)	Bahai festival commemorating the origination of the religion. The festival of Rivdan lasts 12 days, with 3 days (1, 9, and 12) celebrated as holy days.
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	Mon	Apr 24	Varies	Memorializes the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust during WWII.
Mother's Day	Sun	May 11	Varies	Celebration of mothers.