

Holiday Calendar – Fall 2024 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 reach 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
August				
International Day of Indigenous People	Fri	Aug 9	Opportunity to raise awareness about indigenous cultures and the needs of indigenous communities.	Designated by the United Nations, this day recognizes the contributions, self-determination, and lasting legacy of indigenous peoples around the world.
Ullambana (Obon; Sangha Day)	Tue	Aug 13	Buddhists may be absent.	Taking place on the 15 th day of the 7 th lunar month of the year, this festival celebrates the Buddhist community. The festival marks the end of a Buddhist retreat and also commemorates ancestors.
Raksha Bandhan (Rakhi)	Mon	Aug 19	Hindus may be absent.	Traditionally focused on the bond between siblings.
Senior Citizen Day	Wed	Aug 21	Opportunity to raise awareness about older members of society and the contributions they make to families.	First recognized as a US National Day in 1988, this day celebrates the role of older people in our society.
Krishna Janmashtami	Mon	Aug 26	Hindus may be absent.	This holiday celebrates the birth of god Krishna. Observers may fast, pray, and/or celebrate the holiday.
Women’s Equality Day	Mon	Aug 26	Opportunity to raise awareness about gender equality.	First recognized as a US National Day in 1973, this day highlights the approval of the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution. The Nineteenth Amendment prohibits limiting the right to vote based on gender.
September				
National Hispanic Heritage Month			Opportunity to raise awareness about Hispanic heritage.	Celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States.
Guru Granth Sahib	Sun	Sep 1	Sikhs may be absent.	Celebrating the primary Sikh scripture, this day honors the compilation of

				multiple Sikh texts into a single document.
Labor Day	Mon	Sep 2	CSUF campus closed	Observed on the first Monday in September (in the US and Canada), Labor Day recognizes US laborers and unions. Most other countries celebrate a similar holiday on May 1.
Ganesh Chaturthi	Sun	Sep 7	Hindus may be absent.	Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha. Observers may fast, pray, and/or celebrate the holiday.
Mawlid Al-Nabi (Milad Al-Nabi)	Mon Sat	Sep 15 (eve) to Sep 16 or Sep 20 (eve) to Sep 21	Islamic (Sunni) Islamic (Shi'a) Varies; Muslims may be absent.	Observes the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is a significant holiday for Muslims. Celebrations include pray, reciting poetry and religious gatherings.
October				
LGBT History Month			Opportunity to raise awareness about characteristics and contributions LGBTQ+ community and discuss way to ally with them. .	Founded in 1994 by a high school history teacher, this month celebrates the contributions and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people to history and society.
National Disability Employment Awareness Month			Opportunity to discuss the characteristics and experiences of people with disabilities in places of employment and ways to ally with them.	Commemorates the contributions of individuals with disabilities to the workplace. The theme of NDEAM for 2024 is "Access to Good Jobs for All."
Navaratri		Oct 3-12	Hindus may be absent.	Nine-day festival that worships God in the form of universal mother referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti. Observing the holiday may include fasting.
Rosh Hashanah	Wed (eve)- Fri	Oct 2 (eve) to Oct 4	Jews may be absent.	Beginning of Jewish year and first night of High Holy Days. The High Holy Days are a ten-day period of reflection and t'shuvah (reforming) before the new year begins. Observance begins on Wednesday at sundown. Some Jews may observe Oct 5 as a holiday as well.
Durga Puja	Tues- Sat	Oct 8-12	Hindus may be absent.	Honors the Hindu goddess Durga, and her victory over Mahishasura.
National Coming Out Day	Fri	Oct 11	Opportunity to raise awareness about the characteristics and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.	Recognizes the march of 500,000 people in Washington DC for LGBTQ+ equality.
Vijayadashami (Dussehra/Dasar)	Sat	Oct 12	Hindus may be absent.	Hindu celebration of good over evil and the triumph of Rama over the demon Ravana.
Yom Kippur	Fri (eve) Sat	Oct 11 (eve) to Oct 12	Jews may be absent.	"Day of Atonement" that marks the end of the High Holy Days. Traditionally, Jews abstain from eating

				or drinking for a 25-hour period from before sundown on the first night until after sundown on the second night. This fast is supposed to help people focus on prayer and reflection before beginning the new year. Observation begins on Friday at sundown and culminates in a celebratory meal after sundown on Saturday.
Indigenous People's Day (Native American Day)	Mon	Oct 14	CSUF open Opportunity to highlight the characteristics and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and discuss ways to ally with these groups.	Honors Native American history and culture.
Columbus Day	Mon	Oct 14	CSUF open Opportunity to discuss different cultural perspectives on historical events.	Established in 1892 to commemorate Christopher Columbus.
Sukkot		Oct 16 (eve) to Oct 17-23	Jews may be absent.	Sukkot is a harvest holiday celebrating agriculture as well as commemorating the 40 years that Israelites spent wandering in the desert after leaving Egypt. Observance includes spending a week in open-roofed shelters and eating fall foods.
Shemini Atzeret	Fri	Oct 23 (eve) to Oct 24	Jews may be absent.	Directly following Sukkot, a Jewish holiday devoted to the spiritual aspects of Sukkot festival.
Simchat Torah	Thus (eve)-Fri	Oct 24 (eve) to Oct -25	Jews may be absent.	In Judaism, each Shabbat has an assigned reading from the Torah. This holiday marks the day when the reading includes both the last paragraph in the Torah and the first paragraph (representing the completion and restarting of the cycle).
Reformation Day	Thu	Oct 31	Protestants may be absent.	Recognizes the beginning of the Protestant branch of Christianity in 1517. Reformation started a religious movement emphasizing faith in Jesus and separation from Catholicism.
Bandi-Chhor Diwas	Thu	Oct 31	Sikhs may be absent.	This may be observed in October or November. Celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment.
Día de Los Muertos	Thu-Sat	Oct 31-Nov 2		Originating in Mexico, this holiday commemorates the lives of deceased friends, family, and loved ones. Observers may build alters, or <i>ofrendas</i> , with sweets, beverages, and symbols honoring their loved ones.

Halloween	Thu	Oct 31	K-12 schools may have daytime celebrations involving parents and guardians. People with young children may plan evening celebrations.	Eve of All Saints' Day. Celebrated in many countries by dressing up in costumes and giving out sweet treats.
November				
National American Indian Heritage Month			Opportunity to raise awareness of American Indian heritage.	Celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island communities. Also known as Native American Heritage Month.
Diwali	Fri	Nov 1	Hindus may be absent.	Festival of Lights (Deepavali) celebrates victory of good over evil and light over darkness. Observers decorate their homes with colorful designs, candles, and strings of light, gather for feasts and prayer, and light candles and fireworks.
All Saints Day	Fri	Nov 1	Christians (Western) may be absent.	Commemorates Christian saints. Eastern Orthodox Christianity observes on first Sunday after Pentecost.
Birth of the Báb	Sat	Nov 2	Bahá'í may be absent.	Birth of Siyyid, the prophet-herald of Bahá'í Faith in 1819 in Shiráz, Persia. Celebrations include prayer, recitations, and religious and social gatherings.
All Souls Day	Sat	Nov 2	Christians (Western) may be absent.	Commemoration of Christians who are now dead. In Mexico, celebrated as Dia de los Muertos.
Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Sun	Nov 3	Bahá'í may be absent.	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-herald of Bahá'í Faith in 1817 in Nur, Persia. Celebrations include prayer, recitations, and religious and social gatherings.
Election Day	Tue	Nov 5	Opportunity to discuss implications of governmental policies and laws as related to course content.	Day for government elections in the United States.
Veteran's Day	Mon	Nov 11	CSUF campus closed	Honors military veterans and the contributions of the US Armed Services.
Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birthday (Guru Nanak Jayanti)	Fri	Nov 15	Sikhs may be absent.	Birth of Guru Nanak Dev, the First Guru of Sikhs. Birth in mid November.
Day of Covenant	Tue	Nov 26	Bahá'í may be absent.	Commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Bahá, as His successor.
Thanksgiving	Thu	Nov 28	CSUF campus closed	Commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in 1621.

Lincoln's Birthday (Observed)	Fri	Nov 29	CSUF campus closed	Commemorates the 16 th President of the United States, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all enslaved people in the Confederacy free
December				
International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Tue	Dec 3	Opportunity to raise awareness of the characteristics and contributions of persons with disabilities and how to ally with them.	Raises awareness about people with disabilities to promote their rights and well-being.
Bodhi Day (Rohatsu)	Sun	Dec 8	Buddhists may be absent.	Commemorates the day Siddhartha Gautama experienced enlightenment and became known as the Buddha. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
Christmas Eve	Tue	Dec 24	Christians may be absent.	Celebrates the culmination of the Advent period, arrival of Mary and Joseph in Jerusalem and anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ.
Christmas	Wed	Dec 25	CSUF campus closed	A major holiday in the Christian faith that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ who is regarded as the Son of God.
Hanukkah (Chanukah)	Wed	Dec 25 (eve) to Jan 2	Jews may be absent from evening events/classes.	The "Festival of Lights" is an evening celebration over eight consecutive days. It commemorates the reclamation of the Jewish Temple following occupation by the Greeks in 164 BCE.