GEORGIA COLLEGE

GEORGIA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Religious Holidays: 2018-2019 Academic Year

The following information is a limited list of religious and cultural holidays that students may need academic accommodations. Although many of these days are not university holidays, the information can be used by instructors or supervisors at their discretion when responding to student requests for accommodations for religious purposes. Making accommodations does not excuse a student of any course requirements, but rather supports adjustments to honor their religious observances.
Please take special note of those holidays that have been designated non-work days by the religions that celebrate them.
To review GC policy please click http://www.gcsu.edu/registrar/required-syllabus-statements

PLEASE NOTE:

These holidays have been designated non-work days by the religions that celebrate them.

** Some of these dates are not fixed to a calendar but based on the actual sighting of the moon and therefore there may be some variance by a day.

Jewish and Islamic holy days begin and end at sundown on the first and last days listed.

Every Friday from sundown until Saturday at sundown is the Jewish Sabbath.

Eid al-Adha **
Festival of Sacrifice. The day of Arafat, marks the end of Hajj.
Islam Aug. 20-22

Krishna Janmashtami
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna, the eighth incarnation of god Vishnu
Hindu Sept. 3

Rosh Hashanah #
Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, and prayer.
Jewish Sept. 10-11

10th of Muharram**
The date of the Emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 622 CE Islamic New Year
Islam Sept. 12

Fast of Gedaliah
The Fast of Gedaliah is a fast day to commemorate the assassination of Gedaliah, the officially charged with overseeing the Jewish population in Judah.
Jewish Sept. 12

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) #
The most solemn and holy day of the year in which Jews spend a day in fasting and prayer.
Jewish Sept. 18-19

Ashura
There is an optional fast this day. The Shi'a observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Husayn, martyred on this day in 683/684 CE after the battle of Karbala. Sunni observance is related to numerous Biblical and Qur'anic events.
Islam Sept. 20-21

Sukkot #
Also known as the Feast of Tabernacles - celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.
Jewish Sept. 23-30

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah #
Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.
Jewish Oct. 1-2

Birthday of the Bab #
Baha'i observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Bab," the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, in Shiraz, Persia.
Bahá'í Oct. 20

Diwali**
Festival of lights symbolizing the human urges to move toward the light.
Hindu Nov. 5-9

Bandi Chhor Diwas
Observed as a "Day of Liberation" commemorating the release from prison of Guru Hargobind circa 1612
Sikh Nov. 7

Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh #
Anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Baha`u`llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, in Nur, Persia.
Bahá'í Nov. 12

Birth of the Prophet Muhammad**
Commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, about 570 CE.Not universally observed.
Islam Nov. 20-21

Birth of Guru Nanak
Celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak, i c1469, observed on the full moon day of November
Sikh Nov. 23

Ascension of Abdul Baha
The Ascension of ‘Abdu’l-Baha´ commemorates the death on Nov. 28, 1921—and, retrospectively, the life—of ‘Abdu’l-Baha´
Baha’i Nov. 28

Christmas
Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties (per Gregorian Calendar).
Christian Dec. 25

Kwanzaa
Weeklong celebration honoring African heritage in African-American culture.
Interfaith/African-American Dec. 26 –Jan. 1

Feast of the Epiphany
Celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ.
Christian Jan. 6

East Orthodox Christmas
Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties (per Julian Calendar).
Orthodox Christian Jan. 7

Lunar New Year & Tet
Begins a fifteen-day festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.
Confucianism/Taoism/Buddhism Feb. 5

Ash Wednesday
Lent begins in Western Christianity.
Christian Mar.6

East Orthodox Beginning of Lent
First day of the forty days of the Great Lent period, beginning on Clean Monday followed by distinct periods of fasting, Lazarus Saturday, and Palm Sunday, culminating in Holy Week.
Orthodox Christian Mar. 11

Fast of Esther (Purim)
Jewish Mar. 20

Nowruz #
Celebrating the first day of the new year, this is one of the nine Bahá'í holy days on which work is to be suspended. It is generally observed with a meeting for prayer and celebration.
Bahá'í / Zoroastrianism Mar. 21

Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)
Birth of Khalsa brotherhood, the Sikh New Year festival commemorating the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith.
Sikh Apr. 14

Good Friday
Commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death at Calvary.
Christian Apr. 19

Fast of Bechorot
Commemorates the miracle which spared the firstborn Jewish sons from plague.
Jewish Apr. 19

Passover (Pesach) #
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery to freedom.
Jewish Apr. 20-27

Easter
The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.
Christian Apr. 21

Ridvan #
Commemorate the twelve days when Baha`u`llah, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridvan (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth (5/2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'i I's suspend work.
Bahá'í Apr. 21

Eastern Orthodox Good Friday
Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.
Orthodox Christian Apr. 26

Eastern Orthodox Easter
The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.
Orthodox Christian Apr. 28

9th Day of Ridvan #
Bahá'í Apr. 29

12th Day of Ridvan
Bahá'í May 2

Ramadan
The holiest period of the Islamic Year commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation the Qur`an. A month of introspection, prayer, and devoted fasting from dawn to sunset. Intentional consumption of drink, food, or any injection which has nutritional value is forbidden during fasting hours.

> **Laylat Al-Qadr****
> This is the Night of Destiny or Night of Power. It marks the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.
> **Islam May 5-Jun. 4**
> **Odd nights of last ten days**

Vesak (Visakha Puja) - Buddha Day # **
Marking of the birth, enlightenment, and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.
Buddhism May 19

Declaration of the Báb**
Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Bab, the prophet-herald of the Baha'i Faith, announced he was the herald of a new messenger of God.
Bahá'í May 22-23

Ascension of Baha'u'lláh**
Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Baha`u`llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith.
Bahá'í May 28- 29

Ascension Day
The fortieth day of Easter commemorating Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.
Christian May 30

Eid al-Fitr (date can vary by a day)
Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.
Islam June 5-7

Shavuot
One of the three pilgrimage holidays commemorating the giving of the the Torah (5 Books of Moses).
Jewish June 9-10

Pentecost
Christian observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.
Christianity (RC, P, O)June 9

Source: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, University of California at Berkeley

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