



# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

SCOTT A. BASS  
PROVOST

## MEMORANDUM

July 23, 2010

TO: American University Faculty

FROM: Scott A. Bass, Provost 

RE: Major Religious Holidays

American University is deeply committed to building an inclusive community, which includes recognition of and respect for different religious beliefs and traditions. In the spirit of celebrating our different traditions, I ask that you assist our students in observing their religious holidays.

A calendar of the major religious holy days for the 2010-2011 Academic Year, prepared by the University Chaplain, is attached and is available on the Provost's Office Web site at <http://www.american.edu/provost/upload/072310.pdf>. Please feel free to share this list with your colleagues and refer to it when preparing your course syllabi.

Included on the calendar are notes that explain the religious commitments associated with some of the holy days. The holy days listed in bold are those that most likely will have a number of students requesting accommodation. Especially on those holy days, please try to avoid scheduling exams or other important events. If you must schedule important class events on these days, please provide proper notification in your syllabi and give students reasonable opportunities to make-up the missed work. Students will be instructed by the University Chaplain to notify faculty in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious commitment. Likewise, I encourage you to discuss this matter with your students.

Your cooperation and assistance is part of the tradition that makes American University such a welcoming and special place. The deans' offices are aware of the university's commitment of religious expression and may be contacted should questions arise.

### Attachment

Cc: Richard M. Durand, Dean  
Louis W. Goodman, Dean  
Claudio M. Grossman, Dean  
Larry Kirkman, Dean  
William M. LeoGrande, Dean  
Peter Starr, Dean

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# KAY SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER

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## Some Major Religious Holy Days for 2010-2011 Academic Year

Date(s)	Holy Day	Faith Tradition/Religion
Aug. 10	Ramadan begins (30 days of Fasting)*	Islam
Aug. 14	Shri Krishna Janamashtami	Hindu/Vedic
<b>Sep. 8-10</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah**</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Eid Al Fitr (End of Ramadan)*</b>	<b>Islam</b>
<b>Sept. 17-18</b>	<b>Yom Kippur**</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>Sept. 22-29</b>	<b>Sukkot (First 2 days of 7 days observance)**</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Dusserah (Dushahara)</b>	<b>Hindu/Vedic</b>
Sept. 30	Sh'mini Atzeret**	Jewish
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>Simchat Torah**</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>Diwali (Deepawali)*</b>	<b>Hindu/Vedic</b>
<b>Oct. 20</b>	<b>Birth of the Bab***</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
<b>Nov. 1</b>	<b>Feast of All Saints (All Saints Day)+</b>	<b>Roman Catholic &amp; Protestant</b>
Nov. 2	Feast of All Souls++	Roman Catholic
<b>Nov. 12</b>	<b>Birth of Baha'u'llah***</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
<b>Nov. 17</b>	<b>Eid Al-Adha*</b>	<b>Islam</b>
Dec. 1-9	Hanukkah	Jewish
Dec. 7	Al-Hijra(Islamic New Year)	Islam
<b>Dec. 8</b>	<b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception +</b>	<b>Roman Catholic</b>
Dec. 18	Ashurah	Islam
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) +</b>	<b>Roman Catholic, Protestant &amp; Orthodox ^</b>
<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>Orthodox^^</b>
Jan. 20	Tu Bishvat	Jewish
Feb. 26	Mawlid Al Nabi(Prophet's Birthday)	Islam
March 9	Ash Wednesday ++	Roman Catholic & Protestant
<b>March 21</b>	<b>Naw Ruz, Baha'i New Year***</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
March. 20-21	Purim	Jewish
April 17	Palm Sunday	Roman Catholic & Protestant
<b>April 18-26</b>	<b>Pesach (First 2 days of 8 days observance) **</b>	<b>Jewish</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>First Day of Ridvan***</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
April 21	Holy Thursday++	Roman Catholic & Protestant
April 22	Good Friday++	Roman Catholic & Protestant
April 23	Holy Saturday Vigil (begins at sundown) ++	Roman Catholic & Protestant
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Easter+</b>	<b>Roman Catholic, Protestant &amp; Orthodox</b>
<b>April 29</b>	<b>Ninth Day of Ridvan</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
May 1	Holocaust Remembrance Day(Yom Hashoah)	Jewish
<b>May 2</b>	<b>Twelfth Day of Ridvan</b>	<b>Baha'i</b>
<b>June 7-9</b>	<b>Shavuot</b>	<b>Jewish</b>

**Holy Days in bold type face are considered very important holy days when students/employees may be absent from school or work.**

\* Observance of Buddhist, Hindu/Vedic and Islamic holy days is dependent on the sighting of the moon. Please note that that the dates printed herein may not be the exact dates but the closest approximates. Buddhists observe the new moon and full moon as holy days.

\*\* Observance of Jewish holy days begins at sundown of preceding day and ends at one hour after sunset of the last day.

\*\*\* Observance of Baha'i holy days begins at sundown of preceding day and ends at sunset of the holy days.

+ Roman Catholic obligatory feasts require attendance at services and avoidance of servile work.

++ Roman Catholic traditional feasts are those days on which it is assumed that the faithful will attend services and may exclude servile work and include various requirements of prayer and fasting.

^ Orthodox churches that follow the Gregorian Calendar.

^^ Orthodox churches that follow the Julian Calendar.