

The University of Scranton Religious Observance Policy: Students

I. Policy Statement: The University of Scranton proudly acknowledges its Roman Catholic and Jesuit core values, and ~~we~~ are committed to a policy of reasonable accommodation of religious practices essential to other religious traditions

due to observance of religious holy days that are not arranged with the relevant faculty member within the first three class days may be considered unexcused, and the faculty member may therefore prevent the student from making up examinations or assignments missed during the period of absence.

3. Students are responsible for all material presented and all announcements made during class the student missed during the period of absence in observance of a religious holy day and to make up exams or quizzes scheduled on their observance day.
4. Faculty members are urged to remind students of their obligation to inform faculty members within the first three class days of any anticipated absences due to observance of religious holy days and include that information in the syllabus or course requirements document for that course.
5. To support this policy, Multifaith Religious Observance Daylist will be jointly maintained by the Office of Equity and Diversity and the division of Mission and Ministry. Although not an exhaustive or exclusive listing, this list includes specific observances that may be important to students and other members of our campus community. This list is included as an appendix to this policy document.

IV. Contact Information for this Policy

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daniel.cosacchi@scranton.edu 570-941-6651.

V: Location of this Policy

VI: Appendix: Multifaith Religious Observance List

Appendix: Multifaith Religious Observance Day Calendar

About this Calendar: This Calendar is a work in progress. It does not contain every observance that may be important to members of our community. Suggestions and corrections are welcome. If you have questions, corrections, or additions regarding this calendar, please contact the Vice President for Mission and Ministry or the Executive Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity.

Observance varies within communities and traditions. Not every member of a religious community will observe every date listed below for that community and there may be significant diversity in observance and even strong disagreement about observance within and between communities, even when such variance is not specified below.

Terminology: Many names and terms used in this calendar have multiple spellings and transliterations in English usage. Effort has been made to use widely recognized spellings. Some terminology is used for efficiency and clarity (such as references to "Western" or "Eastern" Christianity) even as we acknowledge that they do not perfectly reflect current understandings of religious history and demographics. We welcome feedback and suggestions for continuing to improve this resource.

Lent: Christian (Western/Gregorian)- Observances may include abstention from certain foods and drinks, often including meat. Traditions around fasting vary and include both daily and weekly practices.

Magha Puja Day: Buddhist, dates and observance vary by community

Ayyám-i-Há: Bahá'í

Month of 'Alá': Bahá'í, Observances include fasting by abstaining from food and drink from sunrise to sunset

Maha Shivaratri: Hindu

Ramadan: Muslim, Observances may include fasting with abstention from food and drink from sunrise to sunset, attendance at services, and additional prayer times

Great Lent: Christian (Eastern/Julian) Observances may include abstention from certain foods and drinks, often including meat. Traditions around fasting vary and include both daily and weekly practices.

Spring Equinox: Northern hemisphere, various traditions

Naw-Rúz, Nowruz: Bahá'í, Persian cultural, and additional communities

Ostara: Wiccan, Neo-Pagan and other communities

Purim: Jewish, specific evenings

Prepared by the offices of Mission and Ministry, and Equity and Diversity. Last updated May 2024.

Palm Sunday: Christian, Western/Gregorian

Holi: Hindu, South Asian cultural, dates vary. Student organizations often organize a Holi celebration for later in the semester closer to the arrival of warmer weather.

Hola Mohalla: Sikh

Maundy Thursday

Prepared by the offices of Mission and Ministry, and Equity and Diversity. Last updated May 2024.

Ganesh Chaturthi: Hindu,

Autumnal Equinox: Northern hemisphere, multiple traditions,

Mawlid Nabi: Muslim, observance varies significantly by community,

Rosh Hashanah: Jewish, Observance may include attendance at services including the first evening and during the following two days.

Navpad Oli: Jain,

Yom Kippur: Jewish, Observance may include fasting and attendance at evening and daytime services

Sukkot: Jewish,

Shemini Atzeret: Jewish,

Simchat Torah: Jewish,

Diwali, Tihar, Lakshmi Pujan: Hindu, Observance may include lighting of lamps and fireworks, and the exchange of gifts and sweets. Observance may vary by region and community.

