



SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

Direct Line: 415/338-1141
Fax: 415/338-2514

January 19, 2018

TO: Department Chairs/Directors

FROM: Jennifer Summit
Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: **OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Summit'.

I am writing to remind you that the Academic Senate Policy on the Observance of Religious Holidays (S09-212) indicates that, “The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities....” For your convenience, the following is a link to an Interfaith Calendar—, which lists “Primary sacred times for world religions”: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>. We have also attached a list of these holidays from January – May 2018.

Complete details regarding this Policy, including implementation can be found on the Academic Senate Web Page at the following location:
<http://senate.sfsu.edu/content/policy-observance-religious-holidays>

Please pass this information along to faculty at your first department meeting, and/or copy and distribute this memorandum to all faculty members in your department.

cc: Leslie E. Wong, President
College Deans
Dan Ojeda, University Council

Religious Observances for Spring 2018 Semester

#S09-212 SFSU Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays

The faculty of San Francisco State University shall accommodate students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

This policy shall be included in the University Bulletin, appropriate websites, the Faculty Manual, and undergraduate and graduate student handbooks. Faculty are encouraged to include the policy statement in their course syllabi. Students wishing to be excused from class attendance for religious observances must submit a written request to their instructors prior to their absences, as stated in the policy above. Each academic year, Academic Affairs shall notify all deans, chairs and directors regarding this policy including information on an appropriate religious holiday calendar so faculty can plan their syllabi with current information

Please note that the Islamic Calendar is lunar — dates are flexible and change depending on the location of the moon.

| 2018 | DAYS | HOLIDAY | RELIGION |
|--------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1-Jan | Monday | Mary, Mother of God | Catholic Christian |
| 1-Jan | Monday | Feast Day of St Basil | Orthodox Christian |
| 1-Jan | Monday | Gantan-sai(New Years) | Shinto |
| 1-Jan | Monday | Holy Name of Jesus | Orthodox Christian |
| 2-Jan | Tuesday-Thursday(4) | Mahayana New Year | Buddhist |
| 5-Jan | Friday | Twelfth Night | Christian |
| 5-Jan | Friday | Guru Gobindh Singh birthday | Sikh |
| 6-Jan | Saturday | Epiphany | Christian |
| 6-Jan | Saturday | Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany) | Orthodox Christian |
| 6-Jan | Saturday | Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) | Christian |
| 6-Jan | Saturday | Nativity of Christ | Armenian Orthodox |
| 7-Jan | Sunday | Feast of the Nativity** | Orthodox Christian |
| 7-Jan | Sunday | Baptism of the Lord Jesus | Christian |
| 8-Jan | Monday | Feast of the Holy Family | Catholic Christian |
| 13-Jan | Saturday | Maghi | Sikh |
| 17-Jan | Wednesday | Blessing of the Animals | Hispanic Catholic Christian |
| 18-Jan | Thursday-Thursday(25) | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Christian |
| 19-Jan | Friday | Timkat | Ethiopian Orthodox Christian |
| 21-Jan | Sunday | World Religion Day | Baha'i |
| 21-Jan | Sunday | Triodion begins | Orthodox Christian |
| 22-Jan | Monday | Vasant Panchami ** | Hindu |
| 25-Jan | Thursday | Conversion of St. Paul | Christian |
| 31-Jan | Wednesday | Tu BiShvat * | Jewish |
| 2-Feb | Friday | Candlemas - Presentation of Christ in the Temple | Christian |
| 2-Feb | Friday | Imbolc - Lughnassah * | Wicca/Pagan |
| 2-Feb | Friday | Saint Brigid of Kildare | Celtic Christian |
| 3-Feb | Saturday | St. Blaze Day | Christian |
| 3-Feb | Saturday | Setsebun sai | Shinto |
| 4-Feb | Sunday | Four Chaplains Sunday | Interfaith |
| 8-Feb | Thursday | Nirvana Day | Buddhism |
| 11-Feb | Sunday | Cheese Fare Sunday | Orthodox Christian |
| 11-Feb | Sunday | Transfiguration Sunday | Christian |
| 12-Feb | Monday | Triodion | Orthodox Christian |
| 12-Feb | Monday | Clean Monday - Lent begins | Orthodox Christian |
| 13-Feb | Tuesday | Shrove Tuesday | Christian |
| 14-Feb | Wednesday | St. Valentine's Day | Christian |
| 14-Feb | Wednesday | Maha Shivaratri ** | Hindu |
| 14-Feb | Wednesday | Ash Wednesday - Lent begins | Christian |
| 15-Feb | Thursday | Nirvana Day ** | Buddhist - Jain |
| 16-Feb | Friday | Chinese New Year | Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist |
| 18-Feb | Sunday | Orthodox Sunday | Orthodox Christian |
| 26-Feb | Monday | Intercalary Days | Baha'i |
| 1-Mar | Thursday | St. David of Wales | Christian |
| 2-Mar | Friday | Nineteen Day Fast * | Baha'i |
| 3-Mar | Saturday | Holi ** | Hindu |
| 11-Mar | Sunday | Purim | Jewish |
| 6-Mar | Tuesday | Meatfare Sunday | Orthodox Christian |

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 13-Mar | Tuesday | L. Ron Hubbard birthday | Scientology |
| 17-Mar | Saturday | St. Patrick's Day | Christian |
| 18-Mar | Sunday | New Year ** | Hindu |
| 18-Mar | Sunday | Ramayana ** | Hindu |
| 19-Mar | Monday | St. Joseph's Day | Christian |
| 21-Mar | Wednesday | Norooz (New Year) | Persian/Zoroastrian |
| 21-Mar | Wednesday | Naw-Rúz(New Year) * | Baha'i |
| 21-Mar | Wednesday | Ostara - Mabon * | Wicca/Pagan |
| 25-Mar | Sunday | Annunciation of the Virgin Mary | Christian |
| 25-Mar | Sunday | Palm Sunday | Christian |
| 26-Mar | Monday | Ramanavami ** | Hindu |
| 28-Mar | Wednesday | Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranthusra) ** | Zoroastrian |
| 30-Mar | Friday | Good Friday | Christian |
| 31-Mar | Saturday | Pesach * | Jewish |
| 31-Mar | Saturday | Lazarus Saturday | Orthodox Christian |
| 31-Mar | Saturday | Hanuman Jayanti ** | Hindu |
| 31-Mar | Saturday | Lord's Evening Meal | Jehovah's Witness Christian |
| 31-Mar | Saturday | Magha Puja Day** | Buddhist |
| 1-Apr | Sunday | Easter | Christian |
| 1-Apr | Sunday | Palm Sunday | Orthodox Christian |
| 3-Apr | Tuesday | Mahavir Jayanti ** | Jain |
| 6-Apr | Friday | Holy Friday | Orthodox Christian |
| 8-Apr | Sunday | Pascha - Easter | Orthodox Christian |
| 12-Apr | Thursday | Yom HaShoah * | Jewish |
| 13-Apr | Friday | Lailat al Miraj * | Islam |
| 14-Apr | Saturday | Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) | Sikh |
| 19-Apr | Thursday | Yom Ha'Atzmaut * | Jewish |
| 21-Apr | Saturday | First Day of Ridvan * | Baha'i |
| 23-Apr | Monday | St. George's Day | Christian |
| 29-Apr | Sunday | Ninth Day of Ridvan * | Baha'i |
| 29-Apr | Sunday | Visakha Puja - Buddha Day ** | Buddhist |
| 30-Apr | Monday | St. James the Great Day | Orthodox Christian |
| 30-Apr | Monday-Wednesday(2) | Theravadin New Year | Buddhist |
| 1-May | Tuesday | Beltane - Samhain* | Wicca/Pagan |
| 1-May | Tuesday | Lailat al Bara'ah * | Islam |
| 2-May | Wednesday | Last day of Ridvan * | Baha'i |
| 3-May | Thursday | Saints Philip & James | Christian |
| 3-May | Thursday | National Day of Prayer - USA | Interfaith |
| 3-May | Thursday | Lag B/Omer * | Jewish |
| 10-May | Thursday | Ascension of Jesus | Christian |
| 16-May | Wednesday | Ramadanbegins *** | Islam |
| 17-May | Thursday | Ascension of Jesus | Orthodox Christians |
| 20-May | Sunday | Shavout * | Jewish |
| 20-May | Sunday | Pentecost | Christian |
| 23-May | Wednesday | Declaration of the Bab* | Baha'i |
| 27-May | Sunday | Pentecost | Orthodox Christian |
| 27-May | Sunday | Trinity Sunday | Christian |
| 29-May | Tuesday | Ascension of Baha'u'llah* | Baha'i |
| 31-May | Thursday | Corpus Christi | Catholic Christian |