



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Office of Spiritual and Religious Life

August 2020

Dear Deans and Faculty Colleagues,

As we begin the academic year in this unusual time and way, please know that all of us in the Emory University Office of Spiritual and Religious Life (OSRL) are keeping you and the whole Emory community in our thoughts and prayers. If there are ways that we can be supportive of you and your students in the days ahead, please let us know.

With last spring's transition to online learning and working, we witnessed increased participation in our worship services, meditation sessions, educational programs, and online vigils. We hope that will be the case this fall in order to help the community connect and find space to center in these challenging times. You can always learn more about our programs and services by signing up for our weekly e-newsletter here: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1907222/1907422/>.

We also wanted to bring to your attention some major religious observances that will take place during the fall semester. Emory policy encourages students to work with faculty as early as possible to arrange reasonable accommodations for their participation in religious observances. The academic deans, OSRL, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are also available to consult.

However, it can be helpful for instructors to consider major religious observances when scheduling coursework and exams in order to minimize conflicts that could impact large numbers of students. Jewish and Muslim holidays for the fall semester are listed below. A more complete list of holidays over the academic year is attached and on our website.

We hope this is helpful to you, and thank you for your consideration. We wish health and wellness to you and your loved ones in these times.

With best wishes,

The Reverend Greg McGonigle
University Chaplain and Dean

Jewish Holidays:

The religious holidays where observant students cannot be present in the classroom or do work fall on the following days:

Rosh Hashanah: Friday Eve, September 18 through Sunday, September 20 until after nightfall

Yom Kippur: Sunday Eve, September 27 through Monday, September 28 until after nightfall

Sukkot: Friday Eve, October 2 through Sunday, October 4 until after nightfall

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah: Friday Eve, October 9 through Sunday October 11 until after nightfall

Muslim Holidays:

First of Muharram (New year; special occurrence to acknowledge): Eve August 20 and day August 21

Ashurah (Day of fasting and Shia observance): Eve August 28 and day August 29

Arbaeen (Major Shia observance): Eve October 7 and day October 8

Milad Un-Nabi (Birthday of Prophet Muhammad): Eve October 28 and day October 29

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