

Major Muslim Observances* for 2020-2021 Academic Year

Hijri Calendar Month*	Dates**	Observance	Short Explanation	Recommendation
Muharram 1	eve August 20 and day of August 21, 2020	Islamic New Year (1442 A.H.)	Special occurrence.	Continue coursework as usual. Be aware and acknowledge day.
Muharram 9 and 10	eve August 28 and day of August 29, 2020	Ashura	Major event. Day of Fasting and Shia observance.	Students not able to coursework. Excuse student from class if student observing.
Safar 20 and 21	eve October 7 and day of October 8, 2020	Arbaeen (Shia only)	Major Shia observance.	Student not able to do coursework. Excuse from class if student observing.
Rabi Ul-Awwal 12	eve October 28 and day of October 29, 2020	Milad Un-Nabi	Day of Birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)	Continue coursework as usual. Be aware and acknowledge day.
Rajab 27	eve March 10 and day of March 11, 2021	Isra & Miraj	Full night of prayers.	Students not able to do coursework. Excuse student from class if student observing.
Ramadan 1	eve April 12 and day of April 13, 2021	Month of Fasting begins	Fasting from food and water. Major pillar of Islam.	Continue coursework as usual but offer flexibility as individual endurance varies. Acknowledge and offer greeting of "Ramadan Mubarak".
	eve May 1 to dawn of	Most sacred 10		Continue coursework as usual. Be

Ramadan 20-29	May 12	nights including Laylatul Qadr	Full nights of prayer until dawn.	aware and acknowledge these specials nights.
Ramadan 23	eve May 4 until dawn on May 5	Laylatul Qadr	One of the 10 sacred nights. Night of Power. Full night of prayer until dawn. Shia Muslims emphasize and observe the 23 rd night per tradition.	Students not able to do coursework. Excuse student from class if student observing.
Ramadan 27	eve May 8 until dawn on May 9	Laylatul Qadr	One of the 10 sacred nights. Night of Power. Full night of prayer until dawn. Observed by a majority of Muslims.	Students not able to do coursework. Excuse student from class if student observing.
Shawwal 1	eve May 12 and day of May 13, 2021	Eid Al-Fitr	Major religious holiday marking end of Ramadan.	Class should be cancelled.
Dhul Hijjah 1 to 10	day of July 10 to day of July 19, 2021	Most sacred 10 days including Yaum Arafat	Most sacred 10 days. These days have special rights including fasting and night prayers. 9 th Day is day of forgiveness/atonement. 10 th day is day of feasting.	Continue coursework as usual. Be aware and acknowledge these specials days. Class should be cancelled on 10 th day.
Annual	July 11, 2021	Imamat Day (Ismaili Only)	Special celebration of revered religious leader of day leadership was conferred.	Students not able to do coursework. Excuse student from class if student observing.
Dhul Hijjah 10 -12	day of July 19 to sunset on July 21, 2021	Eid Al-Adha (3 days)	Major religious holiday	Class should be cancelled on 10th Dhul Hijjah, which is the first day of Eid Al-Adha. Eid Al-Adha is a 3 day observance.

*The Hire Calendar is a lunar calendar also known as the Islamic calendar that rotates around the solar calendar year

**All dates are subject to sighting of the new Moon hence may occur a day earlier or later