

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Faculty
 FROM: Strom Thacker
 DATE: July 11, 2018

As you complete any summer work with students and prepare for your fall courses, I am requesting that you make appropriate arrangements with students who wish to observe religious holy days so that they might make up missed work. I recognize that such arrangements often represent a considerable inconvenience to faculty. I make this request of you because I believe it is important that we as a College be responsive to those members of our community who observe these holy days as being important to their lives and their identities. You may wish to request that students traveling home to observe these holy days let you know in advance to facilitate your planning. Thank you for your assistance.

| <u>Highlights</u> | <u>Details</u> |
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| Eid al-Adha: 8/20 – 21 Rosh Hashanah: 9/9 – 11 Yom Kippur: 9/18 – 19 Navratri: 10/9 – 10/18 Diwali: 11/7 Other observances throughout the term Please make reasonable accommodations for students in assignments, quizzes and exams | Eid al-Adha starts at sunset on August 20. Some students may leave campus to be with their families at these times. Rosh Hashanah starts at sunset on September 9 so some students may be away from campus from September 10 – 11. Yom Kippur starts at sunset on September 18, so some students might be away from campus on September 19. Hindus celebrate Navratri, which is from October 9 to October 18. Diwali, the festival of lights, begins on November 7. Some students may leave campus for a portion of those times to be with their families. It is possible that some students may observe other holy days as well. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (518-388-6618) will be happy to answer any questions. Please allow students to make up exams at a mutually convenient time and turn in assignments late that are due on these dates. You should feel welcome to ask students early in the term to let you know if they will be traveling for religious holidays so that you can plan make-ups and due dates accordingly. Also, please be sure to announce the dates of quizzes and exams well in advance so that students can plan ahead. |