

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE
403 West College

September 2015

TO: Members of the Faculty

FROM: Jill Dolan, Dean of the College

SUBJECT: Religious Holidays, Fall Term 2015-16

Throughout the year students may ask members of the faculty for permission to reschedule academic obligations so that they may observe their religious holidays. The University asks faculty to honor such requests and to work with students to plan the most effective ways for them to make up their work.

This fall a number of students will be observing one or more of the following religious holidays after the term begins:

ROSH HASHANAH – Sunday (sunset), September 13, through Tuesday, September 15

YOM KIPPUR – Tuesday (sunset), September 22, through Wednesday, September 23

EID-AL-ADHA – Tuesday (sunset), September 22, through Saturday, September 26

SUKKOT – Sunday (sunset), September 27, through Sunday, October 4

SHEMINI ATZERET – Sunday (sunset), October 4, through Monday, October 5

SIMCHAT TORAH – Monday (sunset), October 5, through Tuesday, October 6

BIRTH OF THE B' AB (BAHA'I) – Monday (sunset), October 19, through Tuesday, October 20

DIWALI (HINDU, SIKH, AND JAIN) – Wednesday, November 11

Additionally, observant Muslim students are expected to pray individually five times a day, on a specific schedule, as well as once a week in a group session on Friday afternoons. While there is some flexibility in the daily prayers, so that they can usually be accommodated around regular class meetings, the weekly group prayer session on Fridays from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. in Murray-Dodge Hall requires attendance on a fixed schedule.

Because the Friday prayer session overlaps with 12:30 and 1:30 classes, it would be extremely helpful if Muslim students who request rescheduling would be permitted to enroll in classes, precepts, drill sections, and labs that meet at times other than Friday afternoon. Since most of this scheduling happens through faculty members in charge of courses rather than through the Registrar's office, I wanted to alert you to the fact that you should expect to receive some requests for rescheduling from observant Muslim students. I hope you will do everything you can to accommodate them.

This list of holidays is not exhaustive. If you need information about other religious holidays that students may bring to your attention, please contact the Office of the Dean of Religious Life. You may also contact the Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel, Dr. Alison Boden, directly at aboden@princeton.edu or at 609-258-6244. Also, of course, feel free to contact me in the Dean of the College Office at jsdolan@Princeton.edu.

Thank you very much for your help.

cc: Academic Department/Program Managers
Office of the Dean of the College
Office of the Dean of Religious Life and of the Chapel
Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students
Office of the Vice President for Campus Life
Residential College Deans and Directors of Studies
Registrar's Office