

**Religious Observances and Holidays**  
**for the 2009-2010 Academic Year**  
 Prepared for the Wellesley College Community

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life has produced this calendar so that our scheduling of activities can be more sensitive to the religious needs of students, alumnae, faculty members and administrators.

**Observances and Holidays with work, food restrictions and/or special worship obligations**

The following list includes those religious observances and holidays that involve food or work restrictions, or special worship obligations which affect the ability of members of the community to participate in college events. All of the following days include special worship obligations. Work and food restrictions are noted. A notation of a work restriction indicates that the religious obligations of some observant members of this tradition may restrict work for all or part of this day. **Dates marked with an asterisk\* indicate that observances begin at sundown on the preceding day. Work restriction observances may mean that students would need to leave campus early in order to join friends/family during the observance.** Although not all of these religious observances and holy days involve work and food restrictions, they nevertheless are an important part of the lives of observant members of these faith traditions.

*Please note that the Islamic Calendar is lunar and dates are not fixed in advance, because they may change depending on the actual sighting of the moon.*

<b><u>Aug-09</u></b>				
Saturday	22	First Day of Ramadan	Islam	Food Restriction
<b><u>Sep-09</u></b>				
Wednesday	16	Laylat al-Qadr	Islam	Special Worship
Friday (sundown) to Sunday	18 (sundown) 19-20	Rosh Hashanah	Judaism	Work Restriction
Saturday	19	Navaratri Begins	Hinduism	Special Worship
Sunday	20	Eid al Fitr	Islam	Work Restriction
Tuesday	22	Mabon	Pagan	Special Worship
Monday	28	Dasera	Hindu	Work Restriction
Sunday (sundown) to Monday	27 (sundown), 28	Yom Kippur	Judaism	Work/Food Restrictions
<b><u>Oct-09</u></b>				
Friday (sundown) to Sunday	2 (sundown) 3-4	Sukkot	Judaism	Work Restriction
Monday to Friday	5-9	Sukkot/Intermediate Days	Judaism	Special Worship
Friday (sundown) to Sunday	9 (sundown) 10-11	Shmini Atzeret / Simchat Torah	Judaism	Work Restriction
Saturday	17	Diwali	Sikh/Hinduism/Jain	Special Worship
Tuesday	20*	Birth of the Báb	Bahá'í	Work Restriction
Saturday	31	Samhain	Pagan	Special Worship
<b><u>Nov-09</u></b>				
Sunday	1	All Saints' Day	Roman Catholic	Special Worship
Friday	13*	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	Work Restriction
Friday	13	Guru Nanak's Birthday	Sikh	Special Worship
Thursday	26	The Day of Arafat	Islam	Food Restriction
Friday	27	Eid-ul-Adha	Islam	Work Restriction
Sunday	29	First Sunday of Advent	Christian	Special Worship
<b><u>Dec-09</u></b>				
Tuesday	8	Immaculate Conception	Roman Catholic	Special Worship
Tuesday	8	Bodhi Day	Buddhism	Special Worship
Saturday	12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	Roman Catholic	Special Worship
Friday (sundown) to Saturday	11 (sundown) 12-19	Hanukkah	Judaism	Special Worship

Monday	21	Yule	Pagan	Special Worship
Wednesday	23	Joseph Smith's Birthday	CJCLDS (Mormon)	Special Worship
Friday	25	Christmas	Christian	Special Worship
Starts Saturday	26 to Jan 1	Kwanzaa	African Heritage	Special Worship
Sunday	27	Ashoura	Islam	Food Restriction
<u>Jan-10</u>				
Friday	1	Solemnity of Mary	Roman Catholic	Special Worship
Wednesday	6	Epiphany	Christian	Special Worship
Thursday	7	Nativity of Jesus Christ	Orthodox Christian / Julian	Special Worship
Friday (sundown) to Saturday	29 (sundown) 30	Tu B'Shvat	Judaism	Special Worship
<u>Feb-10</u>				
Thursday	4	Imbolc	Pagan	Special Worship
Friday	12	Shivaratri	Hinduism	Special Worship
Sunday	14	Chinese New Year	Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist	Special Worship
Wednesday	17	Ash Wednesday (start of Lent)	Christian/Orthodox Christian	Special Worship
Thursday	25	Fast of Esther	Judaism	Fast
Saturday (sundown) to Sunday	28 (sundown) 29	Purim	Judaism	Special Worship
Sunday	28	Holi	Hinduism	Special Worship
<u>Mar-10</u>				
Tuesday	2	The 19 Day Fast begins	Baha'i	Food Restriction
Friday	5	Women's World Day of Prayer	Multifaith	Special Worship
Saturday	20	Spring Equinox	Pagan	Special Worship
Sunday	21	Naw Ruz (New Year's Day)	Bahá'í /Zoroastrian	Work Restriction
Sunday	28	Palm Sunday	Christian	Special Worship
Monday (sundown) to Wednesday	29 (sundown) 30-31	Passover	Judaism	Food/Work Restriction
<u>Apr-10</u>				
Thursday	1	Holy Thursday	Christian/Orthodox Christian	Special Worship
Thursday to Sunday	1-4	Passover (Intermediate Days)	Judaism	Food Restriction
Friday	2	Good Friday	Christian/ Orthodox	Special Worship/Food Restriction
Saturday	3	Buddha's Birthday	Buddhism - Japan, Korea	Special Worship
Sunday	4	Easter	Christian/ Orthodox	Special Worship
Sunday (sundown) to Tuesday	4 (sundown) 5-6	Passover	Judaism	Food/Work Restriction
Sunday	11	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	Special Worship/Mourning
Wednesday	14	Baisakhi	Hindu New Year/Sikh	Special Celebration
Starts Wednesday	21* to May 2	Ridvan	Bahá'í	Work Restrictions
<u>May-10</u>				
Saturday	1	Beltane	Pagan	Special Worship
Saturday (sundown) to Sunday	1 (sundown) 2	Lag B'Omer	Judaism	Special Worship
Sunday	2	Twelfth Day of Ridvan	Bahá'í	Work/Food Restriction
Thursday	13	Ascension of the Lord	Christian / Orthodox	Special Worship
Thursday	13	Vesak	Buddhism/ Southeast Asia	Special Worship
Tuesday (sundown) to Thursday	18 (sundown) 19-20	Shavuot	Judaism	Special Worship/Work Restriction
Sunday	23	Pentecost	Christian	Special Worship
Sunday	23*	Declaration of the Bab	Bahá'í	Work Restriction
Saturday	29*	Ascension of the Bahá'u'lláh	Bahá'í	Work Restriction