

A Faculty-Wide Request: AY 2020-2021 Holidays

Chenthu Jayachandiran, Director, Cultural Center

Tom Romero, Interim Vice Chancellor, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Sarah Pessin, Interfaith Chair

In Partnership with: VPFA; Office of Teaching and Learning; Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Student Life; IRISE; DULCCES; Academic Planning Committee & Student Relations Committee (Faculty Senate); Center for Judaic Studies; Urban Studies; CAHSS IE Committee; Joint PhD Program in the Study of Religion; Department of Religious Studies

Join us in helping make DU a more religiously inclusive experience for our students!

- Check out DU's Religious Accommodations page [here!](#)
- Check out DU's Office of Teaching and Learning's Spiritual and Religious Diversity page [here!](#)
- Check an interfaith calendar [here!](#)
- Transform your everyday online calendar into an interfaith calendar by following the [step-by-step guide here!](#)

1) Please be **generous** in accommodating students:

- Students are often uncomfortable asking for accommodation for religious reasons. If you check an interfaith calendar you can proactively say something to your class like "I see that [holiday x] is coming up; let me know if that is a holiday you honor and if you need accommodation please feel free to contact me."
- To **alleviate your students' concerns about this sooner rather than later**, please consider putting a statement on your syllabus about your valuing religious inclusivity and your accommodating religious observances in your class.
- Consider some of the strategies on this page or come up with your own (and let us know so we can add them to our recommended list of ideas!)

We strongly encourage a Religious Accommodation Policy on your syllabus!

For example: In this class we value Religious Inclusivity. If you require accommodations around religious observance or celebration, please [fill in this form](#), and feel free to talk to me so we can find the best way to accommodate you.

2) In the spirit of inclusivity, we ask you to **please consider** avoiding scheduling class special events, collaborative "real time" assignments, and major assignment due dates on religious dates that might exclude some of your students.

How will you know which dates are the dates in your particular class based on your particular students?

Make a point to **ask your students!** :)

(Back to point 1, this will also signal to students that they can feel comfortable talking to you about needed accommodations)

3) For the dates you identify (based on your particular students in your particular class), please consider **recording all or part** of the class days in question, and posting on Canvas so that students can easily catch up.

Also, if students identify that they are fasting during some of the days of your class, please work with them to see if they need a deferred assignment due date, a deferred test taking opportunity, extended time on an assignment, or some other accommodation.

Please keep in mind that your students are not always comfortable approaching you about any of this, so please consider setting the tone on the first days of class and on your syllabus.

If students know that you value Religious Inclusivity, they are more likely to feel comfortable talking with you (beyond even just filling in the Religious Accommodations form).

Together we can make DU more welcoming to more students!