

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Happy New Year! As we enter into the Spring 2025 semester, we again want to share with you holy days that will occur during this term.

SMU is rooted in the Christian tradition of Methodism and celebrates religious belief and practice that nourish the life of the mind and the spirit. As spring unfolds, many religions observe holy days that bring the community of faith together. In this season, we remind you of the [University's religious observance policy](#) and religious holy days taking place in the Spring 2025 semester.

Students who need to miss class for religious observance are expected to notify faculty in advance of their absence within the first two weeks of the semester and are required to make up any missed work. While students are expected to notify faculty at the beginning of the term, we encourage faculty to work with students in the weeks prior to holidays to make proper arrangements for accessing course materials and making up missed work in a timely manner.

Faculty should anticipate requests from students observing the following holy days:

- - The anticipated dates for Ramadan are \_\_\_\_\_, culminating with the Eid al-Fitr holiday on \_\_\_\_\_. These dates are based on the sighting of the moon and may shift by one day (earlier or later). During the blessed month of Ramadan, observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, abstaining from food and beverages (even water). Observant Muslims eat a substantial meal (suhour) before dawn and break the fast (iftar) with a feast at sunset. Late afternoon classes and tests may be challenging for students who are fasting. The final ten days (March 20-30) of Ramadan are the most auspicious days. During this time, following the iftar meal, many observant Muslims pray and recite the Quran late into the evening with their religious community. Early morning classes and tests may be challenging for students who participate in these rituals.
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Eid-al-Fitr is expected to begin at sundown on March 30 and families will be celebrating the full day of feasting on . The exact date is determined by the sighting of the moon in the last days of Ramadan. Students may request to be excused from class on March 31 to ensure that they can celebrate the holiday with family.

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The Jewish community is celebrating Passover . This year, the first two nights of the Passover Seder celebration fall on Saturday and Sunday nights, April 12 and 13. The Jewish community observes and as holy days, which traditionally one would be unable to attend class or go to work. You may receive requests for excuses absences on .

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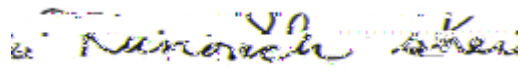
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All Christian traditions will be celebrating Good Friday on and Easter on .

Thank you for your commitment to supporting holistic student growth that nurtures the mind, body and spirit. Each religious tradition is diverse, and the summary above does not speak to every variation you may encounter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the [Rev. Lisa Garvin](#), Chaplain and Minister to the University or the Office of the Chaplain and Religious Life at [chaplain@smu.edu](mailto:chaplain@smu.edu).



Lisa Garvin, Chaplain and Minister to the University



Sheri Kunovich, Associate Provost for Student Academic Engagement and Success