

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY,
INCLUSION, & BELONGING**

DIVERSITY CALENDAR

2024

Throughout the year, University of Illinois System Office employees recognize and celebrate many holidays and special events. Our hope is to foster a more inclusive culture by acknowledging events that speak to our diverse representation within the system.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

While there are several awareness months celebrated in January, the ones that often get the most attention include *Poverty Awareness Month, National Blood Donor Month, Cervical Health Awareness Month, Walk Your Dog Month and Veganuary.*

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

from the busy pace of the rest of the week. It is a day of rest, while also being a day of pleasure and delight. It is a time to set aside and take notice of the wonders around us. (While only listed once, please consider this celebration to be observed throughout the year from every Friday sunset to Saturday sunset.)

- Sunday, 1/7**
- Liberation Day (Cambodia) – Cambodia celebrates Victory Day and its liberation from the Khmer Rouge on this day in 1979. 
- Orthodox Christmas Day (Christian) – The Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar.
- Monday, 1/8**
- **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIC**
- National Clean Your Desk Day (U.S.)
- War on Poverty Day (U.S.)

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday
- Monday, 1/1**
- **NEW YEAR'S DAY - UIUC (No classes)**
- New Year's Day★ (International) – Marks the start of a new year for every country that follows the Gregorian calendar. It marks the end of New Year's Eve celebrations and gives many individuals a chance to remember the previous year while making wishful plans for the new one.
- Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation (U.S.) on January 1, 1863, by Abraham Lincoln, during the midst of the Civil War. It didn't take complete effect until June 19, 1865, when the last enslaved people in the South were freed by the Union army.
- Ellis Island Day (U.S.) – U.S. celebrates Ellis Island serving as a gateway to America during the immigration wave of 1892 through 1954.
- Independence Day (Haiti) – Haiti celebrates its independence from France that occurred on this day in 1804. 
- Independence Day (Sudan) – Sudan celebrates its independence from Britain and Egypt that occurred on this day in 1956. 
- Triunfo de la Revolución/Liberation Day (Cuba) – Cuba celebrates the Cuban Revolution that occurred on this day in 1959. 

- Restoration Day (Czech Republic, Slovakia) – Peaceful dissolution of Czechoslovakia into Czech Republic and Slovakia on this day in 1993.  
- Tuesday, 1/2**
- World Introvert Day (International)
- Thursday, 1/4**
- Independence Day (Myanmar) - Myanmar celebrates its independence from Britain that occurred on this day in 1948. 
- World Braille Day (International)
- Friday, 1/5**
- George Washington Carver Day (U.S.)
- Saturday, 1/6**
- Christmas (Armenia)
- Day of Los Reyes/Feast of the Epiphany (Christian) – Celebrated 12 days after Christmas, this event commemorates the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus. It is a day of celebration in many parts of Europe, Latin America, and South America marked with gift giving.
- Friday, 1/5 – Saturday, 1/6**
- Shabbat/Sabbath (Jewish) - Happens each week from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday where Jewish people celebrate the story of creation and offers a respite

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Monday, 1/8

- Coming of Age Day (Japan) – Celebrated on the second Monday of January each year, this national holiday in Japan celebrates all who turned 20 the previous year. Family get-togethers and communal festivities are held.
- Martyrs' Day (Panama) – Is a national day of mourning for Panama commemorating the riots over the sovereignty of the Panama Canal Zone on this day in 1964.

Wednesday, 1/10

- League of Nations Day (International) – League of Nations Day is observed on January 10 annually. It came into effect on this day in the year 1920 after being approved by 42 nations the previous year. The goal of this now-defunct international organization was to maintain world peace and promote international cooperation.

Thursday, 1/11

- Thank You Day (International)

Friday, 1/12

- **FINAL EXAMINATIONS (WINTER SESSION) - UIUC**
- Remembrance Day (Haiti) – Held each year on this day to pay tribute to the victims of the January 2010 earthquake.
- Signing of the Peace Accords (El Salvador) – Honors the day the Chapultepec Peace Accords were signed by El Salvador in 1992, bringing an end to the decades-long Civil War.

Saturday, 1/13

- Korean American Day (U.S.) – Honors people of Korean descent who have made immeasurable contributions to the United States.
- Lohri (Hindu, Sikh) – Celebration of the days getting longer as the sun proceeds on its northward journey.
- Maghi (Sikh) – Is a festival that commemorates a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, laid down their lives for their Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, by defending an attack by the imperial army.

Sunday, 1/14

- Unknown Citizen's Day (Philippines) – Taking place on the second Sunday of January each year, Philippines honors and celebrates those who have labored for the uplifting and progress of the country as ordinary, everyday citizens.
- Novy God (Russia) – Russia celebrates New Year twice and this second is referred to as Old New Year (or Orthodox New Year).

Monday, 1/15

- **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - UIUC (No classes)**
- **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - UIS (Campus closed)**
- **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - UIC (No classes)**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** ★ (U.S.) – is a federal holiday in observance of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was the national leader of the civil rights movement and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Dr. King was born on this day in 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968.
- Makar Sankranti (Hindu) – This festival holds a lot of significance for Hindus and in Indian culture. It marks both the movement of the sun in the sign of Capricorn and the beginning of the Pongal festival.

Tuesday, 1/16

- **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC**
- **FULL-TERM/FIRST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN (SPRING) - UIS**

Saturday, 1/20

- National Coffee Break Day (U.S.)
- Take a Walk Outdoors Day (International)
- International Day of Acceptance – Is observed on this day every year by people all over the world who come together to embrace the challenges that come along with having a disability.

Sunday, 1/21

- World Religion Day (International) – Celebrated on the third Sunday in January every year, this day is a reminder of the need for harmony and understanding between religions and faith systems. Founded by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Monday, 1/22

■ Day of Unity (Ukraine) – Ukraine celebrates the Unification of Ukraine. On this day in 1919, the Act of Unification of the Ukrainian People’s Republic (UNR) and the West Ukrainian People’s Republic (ZUNR) was proclaimed on Sofia Square in Kyiv.

Wednesday, 1/24 - Thursday, 1/25

■ Tu Bishvat (Jewish) – Beginning at sundown, New Year of the Trees is widely celebrated, especially with a focus on children, as a time to renew the land and to plant trees. It is a custom to honor a person by having a tree planted in Israel in their name. Ends at sundown on 1/25.

Friday, 1/26

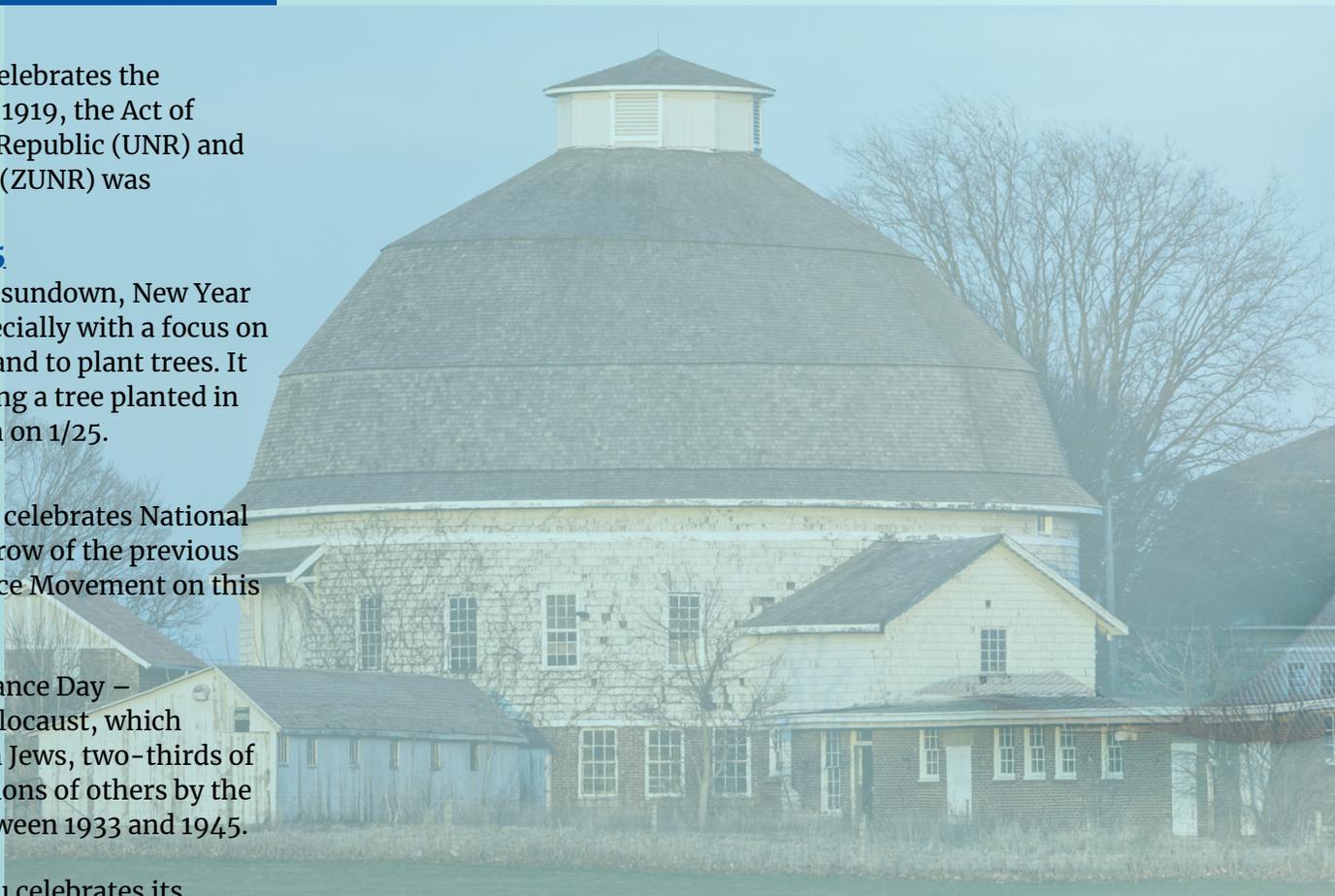
■ Liberation Day (Uganda) – Uganda celebrates National Liberation Day that marks the overthrow of the previous government by the National Resistance Movement on this day in 1986. 

Saturday, 1/27

■ International Holocaust Remembrance Day – Commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the genocide of six million Jews, two-thirds of Europe’s Jewish population, and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

Wednesday, 1/31

■ Independence Day (Nauru) – Nauru celebrates its independence from United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand on this day in 1968. 



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

Week 1 - 2/1 to 2/7

■ World Interfaith Harmony Week (International) - Is an annual event observed to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith and that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace.

Thursday, 2/1

■ Imbolc (Pagan, Wiccan) - Begins on sundown the day before, it is a celebration of fire and light and a return to life.

■ Nation Freedom Day (U.S.) - Is an annual U.S. observance of President Abraham Lincoln signing the 13th amendment, abolishing slavery. In the mid-20th century, Major Richard Robert Wright Sr. advocated for a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated.

Friday, 2/2

■ Candlemas (Christian)/The Presentation of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)- Originated with the ancient Jewish custom that required mothers to present their first male child in the temple. The day is associated with light and purification. Takes its name from the custom of blessing the church's supply of candles for the year.

Black History Month - Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.

■ Groundhog Day (U.S., Canada) - Tradition observed as a part of popular culture that centers on the idea of the groundhog coming out of its home to "predict" the weather.

Saturday, 2/3

■ Suyapa Day (Honduras) - Commemorates the day the 18th-century statue of the Virgin of Suyapa, the Patrones of Honduras, was discovered. Every year the statue, believed to have miraculous powers, it toured through various parts of the country for thousands to visit it.

Sunday, 2/4

■ Independence Day (Sri Lanka) - Sri Lanka celebrates its independence from Great Britain that occurred on this day in 1948. 🇱🇰

■ Liberation Movement Day (Angola) - Commemorates the end of the Baixa de Cassanje revolt, which is regarded as the 1st battle of the Angolan war of independence. 🇱🇰

■ World Cancer Day (International) - This day is celebrated to discuss the prevention, detection, and treatment of various cancers.

Monday, 2/5

■ Constitution Day (Mexico) - On this day in 1917, Mexico adopted its first constitution. 🇲🇽

■ Unity Day (Burundi) - Commemorating the promulgation of a new constitution in 1992 with a focus on national unity.

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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25	26	27	28	29		

■ Kashmir Solidarity Day (Pakistan) - Holiday showing support and unity for the people of India-administered Kashmir and their right to self-determination.

■ Liberation Day (San Marino) - This commemorates the restoration of the independence of San Marino by the Pope on this day in 1740. 🇸🇲

Tuesday, 2/6

■ Waitangi Day (New Zealand 🇳🇿) - Commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 between the indigenous Maoris of New Zealand and the European colonists, providing for British sovereignty in exchange for guaranteed possession by the Maoris of their lands.

Wednesday, 2/7

■ Independence Day (Grenada) - On this day in 1974, Grenada achieved independence from Britain. 🇬🇩

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Wednesday, 2/7

■ Lailat al Miraj/The Prophet's Ascension (Islam) - Beginning at sunset, this event commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven. Lasts until the following day 2/8.

Thursday, 2/8

■ Constitution Day (Philippines) - Holiday commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of the Philippines in 1935.

Saturday, 2/10 - Monday, 2/12

■ *Tsagaan Sar*/White Moon Festival/New Year (Mongolia) - This marks the Mongolian lunar New Year, the Year of the Fire-Monkey, celebrated on the 1st through 3rd days of the first lunar month.

■ *Losar*/New Year (Tibet) - The Tibetan lunar year is based on the Han solar-lunar calendar. It is a day of celebration that links all people in the Tibetan diaspora.

■ Lunar New Year (International) - Observed by many Asian countries and communities around the world during the first three days of the first lunar month. In North and South Korea, the holiday is known as Shul and marks the first day of spring. In Vietnam, it is known as Tet. This holiday is also known as the Chinese New Year.

Sunday, 2/11

■ International Day of Women and Girls in Science - The United Nations Assembly designated this day to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

Monday, 2/12

■ Union Day (Myanmar) - Commemorates the signing of the Panglong Agreement, signed in 1947 to promote equality and unity among the Burmese people.

■ Lincoln's Birthday (U.S.) - This day commemorates the birth of President Abraham Lincoln (1908-1865), who changed the course of history by preserving American Union during the Civil War, thereby preserving American democracy. Lincoln issued the historic Emancipation Proclamation, which paved the way for the 13th Amendment to the constitution ending slavery in the U.S.

■ Shrove Monday (Christian) - Christians in some countries customarily treats to use up butter and eggs before the 40-day fast of Lent.

Tuesday, 2/13

■ *Mardi Gras*/Fat Tuesday (Christian) - festive day celebrated on Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday), which marks the close of the pre-Lenten season. The French name *Mardi Gras* means Fat Tuesday, from the custom of using all the fats in the home before Lent in preparation for fasting and abstinence.

Wednesday, 2/14

■ Vasant Panchami (Hindu, Sikh) - A festival of spring celebrated in honor of Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom and fine arts, and the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

■ Valentine's Day (U.S., U.K., Australia, Mexico, Canada, France) - Also called St. Valentine's Day, day when loved ones express their affection with greetings and gifts. 

■ Pink Triangle Day (International) - The pink triangle has long been a symbol for the LGBTQIA+ community. However, while it was initially associated with a badge of shame (i.e., in Nazi Germany), it has been reclaimed as a positive symbol of self-identity and love for queerness.

■ Ash Wednesday (Christian) - This marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer and fasting preceding Easter Sunday.

Thursday, 2/15

■ Liberation Day (Afghanistan) - Commemorates the anniversary of the day in 1989 when the last soldier from the Soviet Union left Afghanistan. 

■ *Parinirvana*/Nirvana Day (Buddhist) - This day marks the death of the Buddha in 483 B.C. and commemorates his attainment of final Nirvana. The date is based on the Japanese Buddhist calendar.

Friday, 2/16

■ Independence Day (Lithuania) - In 1918, Lithuania declared its independence from Russia. However, after WWII it was Soviet Union absorbed it, and it was not until August 19, 1991, that it regained its independence. 

Saturday, 2/17

■ Revolution Day (Libya) - This day marks the start of the 2011 Libyan Civil War to oust Muammar Gaddafi.

■ Independence Day (Kosovo ) - On this day in 2008, the Republic of Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia.

Sunday, 2/18

■ Independence Day (Gambia) - In 1965, Gambia achieved independence as a constitutional monarchy within the British Commonwealth, and later became a republic on April 24, 1970.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Monday, 2/19

- Presidents' Day (U.S.) - Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February in honor of all U.S. presidents, past and present.
- Family Day (Canada) - Observed in some provinces of Canada, Family Day is a statutory holiday occurring on the 3rd Monday in February.

Thursday, 2/22

- Independence Day (Saint Lucia) - On this day in 1979, Saint Lucia became an independent state within the Commonwealth of Nations. 🇸🇨
- Foundation Day (Saudi Arabia) - Celebrated every year to commemorate the historical foundation of the Saudi State.

Friday, 2/23

- National Day (Brunei) - Each year on this day, Bruneians celebrate their country's independence from the United Kingdom, which occurred on January 1, 1984.

Saturday, 2/24 - Sunday, 2/25

- *Mid-Sha'ban*/Night of Barat (Islam) - Is a Muslim holiday observed by Muslim communities on the night between 14 and 15 Sha'ban. Begins at sunset and lasts until the next day.

Saturday, 2/24

- Independence Day (Estonia) - Commemorates the country's declaration of independence in 1918. 🇪🇪
- *Día de la Bandera*/Flag Day (Mexico) - National holiday in Mexico dedicated to the flag of Mexico. 🇲🇽
- Māgha Pūjā (Buddhism) - Holiday observed in many Buddhist countries and is one of the most important festivals. Observed annually on the full moon day that falls during the third lunar month. Observed in a number of ways, including holding processions and lighting candles in monasteries, meditating, and making offerings of food. It's also a day when devotees are asked to uphold the 5 Buddhist moral precepts of the day: avoid the killing of both humans and animals; do not steal or commit fraud and/or forgery; avoid adultery in all of its forms; avoid malicious, false speech and gossip; and avoid drugs, alcohol, and all other intoxicants.

Monday, 2/26 to Thursday, 2/29

- Festival of Ayyam-i-Ha/Intercalary Days (Bahá'í) - These days are observed with gift giving, special acts of charity, and preparation for fasting that precedes the new year. This period adjusts the Bahá'í year to the solar calendar.

Tuesday, 2/27

- Independence Day (Dominican Republic) - This day commemorates the retreat in 1844 of the Haitians who had controlled the country. 🇩🇲

Thursday, 2/29

- Leap Day (International) - Leap years and leap days are necessary to keep our calendar in sync with the seasons. The Earth takes approximately 365.2422 days to complete one orbit around the Sun, which is slightly longer than our standard 365-day calendar. And so, we add an additional leap day every 4 years in order to stay in alignment with the seasons.



February

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

Friday, 3/1

■ 8-WEEK PART OF TERM A ENDS (SPRING) - UIC

■ Independence Day (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - This day marks the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina from Yugoslavia in 1992. The day is celebrated with parades, speeches, concerts, and displays of fireworks. 🇧🇦

■ Remembrance Day (Marshall Islands) - This is a national holiday to honor the victims and survivors of U.S. nuclear testing performed in the Marshall Islands in 1954. This ultimately led to the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

■ Bahá'í Fast (Bahá'í) - Lasting from 3/1 to 3/19, each year Bahá'ís refrain from eating or drinking from sunrise to sunset. This is a time for reflection on one's spiritual progress. Those exempt from fasting include the ill, pregnant or nursing women, and people under 15 or over 70 years of age.

■ Zero Discrimination Day (International) - Is an annual day celebrated by the United Nations and other international organizations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the U.N.

Women's History Month - This month is set aside to honor women's contributions, commemorating and encouraging the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role of women in American history and contemporary society. This was officially designated by presidential proclamation in perpetuity in 1987.

■ Independence Movement Day (South Korea) - Known also as Three-One Day, or Sam'il-Jol, this day commemorates the 1919 movement of massive demonstrations against Japanese Rule.

■ Employee Appreciation Day (U.S., Canada, U.K.) - Celebrated on the 1st Friday in March, it is meant for employers to give thanks or recognition to their employees.

Saturday, 3/2

■ Puerto Rican Citizenship (U.S.) - On this date the U.S. Congress passed the Jones Act, which conferred U.S. citizenship on Puerto Ricans and gave them the right to elect representatives to both houses of the territorial legislature.

Sunday, 3/3

■ Liberation Day (Bulgaria 🇧🇬) - Following the Russo-Turkish War, the Bulgarian state was re-established under the March 3, 1878 Treaty of San Stefano, which assigned a portion of the Ottoman Empire to Bulgaria.

■ World Hearing Day (International) - People worldwide celebrate this day to raise public awareness regarding the ways to avoid deafness and hearing impairment.

■ Hina Matsuri/Doll Festival (Japan) - One of the major social festivals in Japan. There is visiting among family members and friends with gifts of dolls. Traditional foods are red-bean-flavored rice, rice dumplings wrapped in cherry leaves, and a special sweet cake.

March 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Monday, 3/4

■ 8-WEEK PART OF TERM B BEGINS (SPRING) - UIC

Wednesday, 3/6

■ Independence Day (Ghana) - On this date in 1957, the British territories of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent nation of Ghana. 🇬🇭

Friday, 3/8

■ Maha Shivaratri/Shiva's Night (Hindu) - This festival honors Shiva who, along with Vishnu and Krishna, is one of the most important deities in Hinduism. It is observed in the spring and is celebrated with fasting, prayer, and meditation.

Friday, 3/8

■ Revolution Day (Syria) - On this date in 1963, the Ba'ath Party seized power in a military coup. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches commemorating the new era.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Friday, 3/8

■ International Women's Day - The movement to create this day was part of the socialist movement for greater women's rights, particularly the right to vote. It is a day to celebrate women's lives and work.

Saturday, 3/9

■ MID-POINT - UIS

Saturday, 3/9 - Sunday, 3/17

■ SPRING BREAK - UIUC

Sunday, 3/10 to Tuesday, 4/9

■ Ramadan (Islam) - This begins the first day of the month of Ramadan, a month of fasting and the holiest month of the Muslim Year. The fast is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and mandatory for every Muslim who has reached puberty except those who are ill, pregnant, or on a journey. During this month, no food or water may be taken from sunrise to sunset. Worshipers eat a light meal, called *suhoor*, early in the morning prior to daybreak. After sunset, Muslims break the fast with the evening meal called the *iftar*.

Monday, 3/11 to Friday, 3/15

■ SPRING RECESS - UIS

Tuesday, 3/12

■ National Day (Mauritius) - This marks the day in 1968 that Mauritius gained independence from Great Britain. 

■ *Chaharshanbe Suri*/(Red) Last Wednesday Festival (Iran) - This festival is celebrated with bonfires lit throughout the streets and people leap over the flames in a

purification rite in preparation for the new year, Now Rouz, which will arrive on the vernal equinox. It is celebrated on the eve of the last Wednesday of the Persian Year, thus celebrated on a Tuesday evening.

Thursday, 3/14

■ Constitution Day (Andorra) - Commemorates the referendum in 1993 that approved the country's new constitution.

Friday, 3/15

■ International Day to Combat Islamophobia - Designated by the United Nations in 2022, as the international observance to combat Islamophobia.

Sunday, 3/17

■ St. Patrick's Day (Ireland, U.S.) - The anniversary of Ireland's patron saint's death in A.D. 493, Ireland celebrates this day as a national holiday, with green, the color of the day, signifying undying gratitude to the memory of St. Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland.

Although not an official holiday in the U.S., St. Patrick's Day is celebrated throughout the country with parades and festivities to celebrate the contributions of people of Irish heritage throughout American history. The City of Chicago turns the Chicago River green. For many Irish Americans, a meal of corned beef and cabbage is part of observing this holiday.

Monday, 3/18

■ LAST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIS

■ INSTRUCTION RESUMES (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC

■ Beginning of Great Lent (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Also known as Clean Monday in Greece and Green Monday in Cyprus, this begins the Lenten season based on the Julian calendar.

Monday, 3/18 to Friday, 3/22

■ SPRING VACATION - UIC

Monday, 3/18 to Sunday, 3/24

■ Neurodiversity Celebration Week (International) - Is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences.

Tuesday, 3/19

■ Feast of St. Joseph (Roman Catholic) - This feast honors St. Joseph, the husband of Mary. The celebration is especially important in Italy to honor St. Joseph's (San Giuseppe) answer to people's prayers to end the horrible drought Sicily was plagued with in the Middle Ages.

■ Father's Day (Italy, Spain)

■ Nowruz/New Year (Iran, Afghanistan, Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and throughout Central Asia) - Festive celebration for the Iranian New Year marking the first day of the first month of the Iranian calendar and the beginning of spring. It is a symbol of nature's rebirth and one of the most important Iranian holidays.

■ Start of Spring (Northern Hemisphere, North America) - This year, the first day of spring will be on March 19. This is also the start of the vernal equinox.

■ Chichen Itzá Equinox (Mexico) - This festival is celebrated on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes at the ancient Mayan Pyramid of Kukulkan. In the Spring, it is celebrated around March 19 to 22.

■ Ostara/Vernal Equinox (Pagan, Wiccan) - This is the Sabbat observed on the vernal equinox.

Wednesday, 3/20

■ Independence Day (Tunisia) - Commemorates the treaty on this day in 1956, by which France recognized Tunisia as a sovereign nation. 

■ *Shunbun No Hi*/Vernal Equinox (Japan) - Public holiday in Japan celebrating the beginning of spring.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Thursday, 3/21

■ Independence Day (Namibia) - On this day in 1990, Namibia became an independent country. It had been a German colony beginning in 1884; was administered by South Africa after WWI and later came under United Nations control before become independent.

■ Mother's Day (Syria)

■ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (United Nations) - This is commemorated as Human Rights Day in South Africa as this day marks the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre.

■ World Down Syndrome Day - Also known as Trisomy 21, down syndrome is a chromosomal arrangement that's existed as long as humans have been alive.

■ National Single Parents Day (U.S.) - Honors the mothers, fathers and single parents holding down the fort with all the hard work, devotion, and sacrifices involved in single parenting.

Friday, 3/22

■ Emancipation Day (Puerto Rico) - On this day in 1873, the Spanish colonial government abolished slavery.

■ World Water Day (United Nations) - Annual observance that highlights the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Saturday, 3/23

■ Pakistan Day/Republic Day (Pakistan) - On this day in 1956, Pakistan declared itself an Islamic republic.

■ Purim/Feast of Lots (Jewish) - Commemorates the saving of the Persian Jewish people from Haman. Begins at sunset and lasts until the next day.

Sunday, 3/24

■ Palm Sunday (Christian) - On the Sunday before Easter, Christians remember Jesus' last entry into Jerusalem, when his way was strewn with palms by those gathered to see him. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, the most important week of the Christian year. Communities have many processions and ceremonies during this period.

■ The Memorial of Jesus Christ's Death (Jehovah's Witness) - Commemorated and hosted by Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide for people of all faiths each year.

Monday, 3/25 to Wednesday, 3/27

■ *Hola Mohalla* (Sikh) - Is a 3-day festival celebrated in Anandpur Sahib in the Indian state of Punjab. It is a display of martial arts and military exercises, including mock battles, sword fighting, archery, and maneuvers on speeding horses, followed by music, dance, and poetry competitions.

Monday, 3/25

■ Independence Day (Greece) - On this day in 1821, the head of the *Philikê Hetairia* (Friendly Association), Alexander Ypsilanti, entered Turkish territory with a group of armed followers and declared the independence of Greece.

■ The Annunciation (Christian) - Based on the gospel in Luke 1:26-56, this holy day celebrates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of Galilee that she would become the mother of Jesus.

■ Holi/The Festival of Colors (Hindu) - Celebrates the coming of spring throughout India and the new harvest of the winter crop. It is celebrated over 2 days, Holi and Dhuleti, also known as chhoti holi and badi holi. "God

bless you with prosperity and happiness," or, "I wish you happiness and prosperity," are appropriate greetings for all Hindu holidays.

■ International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (United Nations) - This is a day to honor and remember the more than fifteen million men, women, children, and individuals who were victims of the 400-year transatlantic slave trade - one of the darkest and most tragic chapters in human history. It is also a time to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice.

Tuesday, 3/26

■ Independence Day (Bangladesh) - This day in 1971 marks the day the newly formed Bangladesh government declared independence from Pakistan.

Thursday, 3/28

■ Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday (Christian) - It is the day before Good Friday and takes place during Holy Week. It commemorates Jesus Christ's last supper and the initiation of Holy Communion (the Eucharist), observed in many Christian churches.

Friday, 3/29

■ Good Friday (Christian) - Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Saturday, 3/30

■ Holy Saturday (Christian) - Holy Saturday is the name assigned to the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Many Christians acknowledge Holy Saturday, the seventh and final day of Holy Week, as the day on which Jesus "rested" from His work of bestowing redemption to mankind.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Sunday, 3/31

■ **Easter (Christian)** - Easter is an important Christian festival - it's when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible says that Christ died on a cross on a day called Good Friday. According to the Bible, Jesus was then resurrected and came back to life on Easter Sunday. It is also celebrated with themes of rebirth, , gathering together family and friends, and sharing special foods.

■ **Culture and Traditions Day (Micronesia)** - A holiday where each island showcases their culture and traditions. People perform traditional dances in grass skirts hand-woven out of banana fiber and hibiscus bark with headdresses of flowers, craftsmen exhibit hand-carved wooden sculptures of sharks and mantas, and artisans show their handmade woven bags or other accessories made from sea shells or ivory nuts.

■ **International Transgender Day of Visibility** - This day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people. It also aims to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrate their contributions to society.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

There are several awareness months celebrated in April – the ones that often get the most attention in addition to Arab American Heritage Month include Stress Awareness Month, Earth Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Paralyzed Veteran Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Alcohol Awareness Month.

Tuesday, 4/2

■ World Autism Awareness Day (International) – Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life. This day was declared to highlight the need to help improve the lives of children and adults who suffer from the disorder so they can lead full and meaningful lives.

Thursday, 4/4

■ National Day (Senegal 🇸🇳) – This day commemorates Senegal's gaining full independence from France in 1960.

Saturday, 4/6

■ Laylat al-Qadr (Islam) – This festival occurs during the month of Ramadan and commemorates the beginning of the revelation of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.

Arab American Heritage Month – During the month of April, the Arab America Foundation formally recognizes the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM). Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and non-profit organizations issue proclamations and engage in special events that celebrate our community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to society.

■ Asexuality Day (International) – This day celebrates all identities housed under the asexuality umbrella. Often, people who identify as asexual may feel little to no sexual attraction for others. However, the term is used broadly and can apply to many different identities.

■ Tartan Day (U.S.) – This day was established by an act by Congress in 1998 to recognize the role Scottish Americans played in the founding of the nation and to acknowledge the many contributions that have been made by people of Scottish ancestry.

Sunday, 4/7

■ National Women's Day (Mozambique) – It is known as a National Women's Day because this day marks the anniversary of Josina Muthemba Machel's death on April 7, 1971. Josina was a key figure in the struggle for the emancipation of African women and specifically, Mozambican.

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	2
28	29	30				

■ The Annunciation (Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian) – This holy day celebrates the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary of Galilee that she would become the mother of Jesus. This is the date according to the Julian calendar.

■ Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide (Rwanda, United Nations) – This day commemorates the deaths of 800,000 people who were murdered during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. People around the world hold memorial ceremonies that include candle-lighting and a minute of silence to honor the victims of the Rwanda genocide.

■ Feast of Divine Mercy (Roman Catholic) – This day is celebrated on the Octave of Easter, or the Sunday after Easter Sunday. All those who go to confession and receive Holy Communion will be forgiven all their sins and will receive divine grace.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Tuesday, 4/9 to Wednesday, 4/17

■ **Chaitra Navrati** (Hindu) - This festival honors the Goddess Shakti and three of her most popular avatars: Durga, the warrior Goddess, Lakshmi, the Goddess of prosperity, and Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge. It is a nine-night festival that ends with Ramanavami.

Tuesday, 4/9

■ **Gudi Padwa** (Hindu) - This festival marks the first day of the month of Chaitra, the new year in the western Indian state of Maharashtra according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar. People hang *gudis*, bamboo poles topped with colorful brocade, leaves, garlands of red flowers, and sugar crystals, over which a small silver or copper pot is inverted, on their doors and windows to symbolize victory, ward off evil, and bring prosperity into their homes.

■ **Ugadi** (Hindu) - This marks the first day of the month of *Chaitra*, which is the beginning of the new year 2075 for the Kannadigas and Telugus of the Deccan Plateau in Southern India.

■ **Eid al-Fitr** (Islam) - Eid al-Fitr is one of two major holidays celebrated by Muslims around the world. It can be translated as "the feast of fast-breaking" as it commemorates the end of the holy month of Ramadan in which Muslims who are able to do so will fast from before dawn until after sunset each day.



Friday, 4/12

■ **Day of Silence** (U.S.) - Observed annually On Second Friday in April, the National Day of Silence sheds light on the disastrous effects of bullying and harassment of LGBTQ students in schools. This day students across the US take a vow of silence to illustrate the silencing effect when LGBTQ students are bullied.

Saturday, 4/13

■ **Songkran Festival** (Thailand) - he festival in Thailand kicks off on April 13 and usually lasts three days, though festivities can start early or end later in some cities. The holiday's main focus is about moving forward—in fact, the word Songkran comes from a phrase in the Sanskrit language that means “passage of the sun.” Water plays a major role in the festival. Symbolically it washes away the previous year so people can get ready for the next one.

■ **Thingyan Festival** (Myanmar) - Thingyan festival is the Burmese New Year Festival or sometimes called Water Festival because water throwing, water spraying, dousing on each other are the main activities during this festival. It usually falls in the third part of April (from 13th to 16th April). This is the most expected celebration of Burmese people & is a similar celebration as the Buon Pi Mai in Laos, the Songkran in Thailand, the Cambodian New Year, the Sinhalese New Year, and the Bihu festival of Assam.

■ **Vaisakhi** (Sikh) - Vaisakhi commemorates Guru Gobind Singh Ji's founding of Khalsa, the ritual of bringing all those who become Sikhs into a community of equals.

■ **Vaisakhi** (Hindu) - Vaisakhi is a harvest festival for people of Northern India. In Punjab, Vaisakhi marks the ripening of the rabi harvest. Vaisakhi, the Hindu Solar new year, also marks the Nepalese, Punjabi and Bengali New year.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Sunday, 4/14

■ Puthandu/Tamil New Year (Hindu) - The Tamil New Year is celebrated on the first day of the Hindu Solar Calendar. Popularly known as Puthandu, the Tamil New Year is celebrated with feasts in Hindu homes, and the houses' entrances are decorated elaborately with kolams.

Monday, 4/15

■ Patriots' Day (U.S.) - Legal holiday or special observance in six U.S. states, commemorating some of the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. Occurs on the third Monday of April each year. Celebrations include battle reenactments and the Boston Marathon.

Wednesday, 4/17

■ Independence Day (Syria) - This public holiday celebrates Syria's independence from the French occupation in 1946. 

■ Women's Day (Gabon) - This day was enacted to celebrate women in government and marks the death anniversary of Rose Francine Rogombé, the first female head of state of Gabon.

■ Rama Navami/Birthday of Rama (Hindu) - This holiday honors Rama, one of the incarnations of the god Vishnu. The Story of Rama is told in the *Ramayana*, which along with the *Mahabharata* is one of the great epic poems of Hinduism. It is observed with sanctity and fasting. Temples are decorated and parts of the Ramayana are recited at home.

Thursday, 4/18

■ Independence Day (Zimbabwe) - Formerly called Rhodesia, Zimbabwe gained independence from Great Britain on this day in 1980. 

Sunday, 4/21 - Friday, 5/3

■ Festival of Ridvan (Bahá'í) - Ridván is a twelve-day festival in the Bahá'í Faith, commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God.

Sunday, 4/21

■ Mahaavir Jayanti (Jain) - Jainism is a religious system practiced by over 5 million people worldwide, primarily in India. This festival celebrates the birth of Mahavira, the 24th and last of the Tirthankaras, or enlightened ones. It is the most important holiday in Jainism and is celebrated with prayer and visits to shrines.

Monday, 4/22

■ Earth Day (International) - Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. 

■ Passover (Jewish) - Beginning at sundown, Passover commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Passover begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar, which is spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and is celebrated for 7 or 8 days. It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

Monday, 4/22 to Sunday, 4/28

■ Lesbian Visibility Week (U.S., U.K.) - Lesbian Visibility Week aims to show our solidarity with all LGBTQI woman and non binary people in the community, as well as celebrate lesbians. It is a voice for unity and lifts up ALL women, especially those who come from marginalised communities.

Thursday, 4/25

■ ANZAC Day (Australia, New Zealand) - Commemorates New Zealanders and Australians killed in war and honors returned and serving service individuals.

■ Liberation Day (Italy, Portugal) - Commemorates the day in 1945 that Italy was liberated from German occupation during WWII. Also commemorates the revolution in 1974 in Portugal that overthrew the dictatorial regime of Antonio Salazar and the reestablishment of democracy.

Friday, 4/26

■ **INSTRUCTION ENDS (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIC**



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Saturday, 4/27

- Freedom Day (South Africa) - Commemorates the day in 1994 when for the first time all South Africans had the right to vote.
- Independence Day (Sierra Leone) - This day commemorates Sierra Leone's gaining independence from Great Britain in 1961.
- Independence Day (Togo) - On April 27, 1960, Togo declared its independence from France.

Sunday, 4/28

■ Palm Sunday (Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian) - This day is observed according to the Julian calendar. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it is often called the Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem and is the beginning of Holy Week. On Lazarus Saturday, the day before, believers prepare palm fronds by knotting them into crosses in preparation for the procession on Sunday.

■ World Day for Safety and Health at Work (United Nations) - The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.

Monday, 4/29 to Friday 5/3

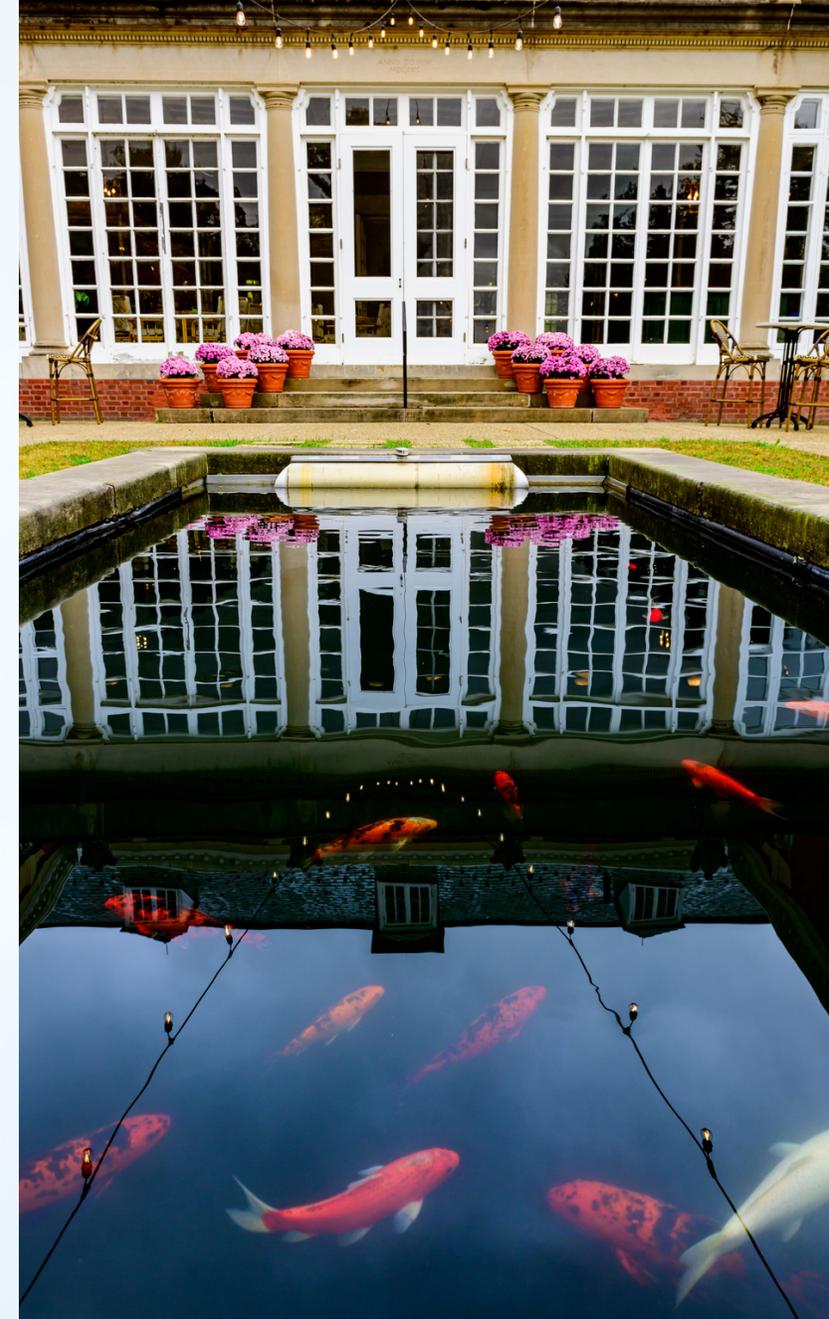
■ **FINAL EXAMINATIONS (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIC**

Monday, 4/29 to Monday 5/6

■ Golden Week (Japan) - The Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays within seven days. In combination with well placed weekends, the Golden Week becomes one of Japan's three busiest holiday seasons, besides New Year and the Obon week.

Monday, 4/29

■ Showa No Hi/Showa Day (Japan) - Shōwa Day is a public holiday in Japan held on April 29. It honors the birthday of Emperor Shōwa (Hirohito), the reigning emperor from 1926 to 1989.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

Wednesday, 5/1

■ INSTRUCTION ENDS (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC

■ Flowers of May (Philippines) - Is a festival held in the Philippines in the month of May. It is one of the May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary and lasts for the entire month.

■ Beltane (Pagan, Wiccan) - Beltane is the holiday that celebrates the time of year when the God and Goddess are equal in power and the masculine and feminine energies are united. The holiday celebrates their union through traditions such as fertility rites, fire festivals, and dancing around the maypole. It is one of the eight Sabbats and falls halfway between the spring equinox and the coming summer solstice. This day marks the coming summer and is associated with fertility.

Thursday, 5/2

■ READING DAY (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC

■ Day of Madrid (Spain) - The Day of the Autonomous Community of Madrid (Fiesta de la Comunidad de Madrid, Dos de Mayo) is a public holiday in the autonomous community of Madrid, Spain, on May 2. It marks the anniversary of an uprising against French troops on May 2, 1808.

Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Month - During the month of May, we celebrate the contributions that generations of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have made to American history, society, and culture.

Mental Health Awareness Month - In May, we bring awareness about mental health and the reality that millions of Americans are living with a mental illness. Our goal is to reduce stigma, provide support, educate, and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.



Jewish American Heritage Month - During May, hundreds of organizations and Americans of all backgrounds are joining together to discover, explore, and celebrate the vibrant and varied American Jewish experience from the dawn of our nation to the present day.

■ National Day of Prayer (U.S.) - Is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation"

Friday, 5/3

■ FINAL EXAMINS BEGIN (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC

Saturday, 5/4

■ LAST DAY OF CLASSES (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIS

■ Greenery Day (Japan) - The national holiday encourages people to commune with nature to express their gratitude and appreciation for its benefits.

May 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Sunday, 5/5

■ **Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)** - This is a yearly celebration held on May 5 to celebrate Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza. Primarily a Mexican holiday, it has taken off in the United States as a way to celebrate Mexican culture.

■ **Children's Day (South Korea)** - Children's Day is every 5th of May. Salaried workers, and children, get a day off of work and school so that they can spend the day together.

■ **Liberation Day (Netherlands )** - This day marks the end of the WWII Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in 1945.

■ **Easter (Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)** - Easter is celebrated on this day according to the Julian calendar. In the Orthodox church, the celebration of Easter begins just before midnight on Holy Saturday with the lighting of candles during Easter midnight mass.

■ **Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance (Israel)** - Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah (Remembrance Day of the Holocaust and Heroism) is the Jewish memorial day for the Shoah (which is the Hebrew word for "catastrophe," referring to the Holocaust). Recognized beginning at sunset until the next day.

Monday, 5/6

■ **May Day (International)** - Many countries celebrate May Day as Labor Day where they have an official holiday honoring working people. The U.S and Canada, however, celebrate Labor Day in September.

Monday, 5/6 - Saturday, 5/11

■ **FINALS WEEK (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIS**

Wednesday, 5/8

■ **Victory Day (France)** - This holiday commemorates the defeat of the German army in Europe in 1945.

■ **Liberation Day (Czech Republic, Slovakia) -  ** Commemorates the day in 1945 that the Allied forces accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany.

■ **Victory in Europe Day (International)** - Day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on May 8, 1945, marking the official end of WWII in Europe.

Thursday, 5/9

■ **Victory Day (Russia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia)** - Is a holiday that commemorates the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945 and ending WWII.

■ **Ascension Day (Christian)** - This marks the anniversary of the day Christians believe that Jesus rose to heaven.

■ **Father's Day (Germany)** - In Germany, Father's Day ('Vatertag') is celebrated on Ascension Day, which is a public holiday in Germany.

Friday, 5/10

■ **FINAL EXAMS END (SPRING SEMESTER) - UIUC**

■ **Mother's Day (Mexico)** - Mother's Day in the United States consistently falls on the second Sunday of May, but Mother's Day in Mexico always takes place on May 10, regardless of which day of the week it happens to fall on.

■ **Military Spouse Appreciation Day (U.S.)** - A holiday honoring husbands, wives and partners of service members.

Saturday, 5/11

■ **COMMENCEMENT - UIUC**

■ **SPRING SEMESTER ENDS/COMMENCEMENT - UIS**

Sunday, 5/12

■ **Mother's Day (U.S., International)** - A celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

Monday, 5/13

■ **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SUMMER SESSION I) - UIUC**

■ **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SUMMER SESSION I) - UIC**

■ **Our Lady of Fatima Day (Portugal)** - Commemorates the miracle of the vision of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, to 3 shepherd children on May 13, 1917.

Tuesday, 5/14

■ **Independence Day (Paraguay)** - A two-day holiday celebrating Paraguay's independence from Spain on May 14, 1811. 

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Wednesday, 5/15

■ **Feast Day of St. Isidore (Spain)** - Provincial public holiday honoring Isidore the Labourer, also known as Isidore the Farmer - a Spanish farmworker known for his piety toward the poor and animals. He is the Catholic patron saint of farmers.

Thursday, 5/16

■ **Global Accessibility Awareness Day** - an awareness day focusing on digital access and inclusion for the more than one billion people alive today who live with disabilities or impairments. It is marked annually on the third Thursday of May.

Friday, 5/17

■ **Liberation Day (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** - This day marks the 1997 coup that brought Laurent-Désiré Kabila to power following the First Congo War. This is celebrated as a public holiday in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

■ **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia** - Aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide.

■ **Brown vs. Board of Education (U.S.)** - On May 17, 1954, the Court declared that racial segregation in public schools violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, effectively overturning the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision mandating "separate but equal." The Brown ruling directly affected legally segregated schools in twenty-one states.

Sunday, 5/19

■ **Pentecost/Whit Sunday (Christian)** - Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, will be celebrated on May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word 'pentecoste,' which means '50th day.' Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Monday, 5/20

■ **Independence Day (Cuba)** - This day commemorates the proclamation of the Cuban Republic in 1902, whereby Cuba declared its independence from the U.S.

■ **Whit Monday (Christian)** - Whit Monday is a Christian holiday that celebrates the descent of the Saint-Esprit ("Holy Spirit") onto Jesus's disciples. The Holy Spirit's descent is said to mark the "birthday" of the Christian church. Catholics celebrate this holiday as the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

■ **Gawai Dayak/Dayak Festival (Malaysia)** - Annual festival to give thanks for the bountiful rice harvest and to honor the Dayak, the indigenous people of Sarawak in western Malaysia.

■ **Victoria Day (Canada)** - Victoria Day is a federal Canadian public holiday celebrated on the last Monday preceding May 25 to honour Queen Victoria. The holiday has been observed in Canada since at least 1845, originally on Victoria's natural birthday, May 24.

Tuesday, 5/21

■ **Independence Day (Montenegro)** - The country formally declared its independence from Montenegro and Serbia in 2006.

■ **German Diversity Day (Germany)** - People all over the country hold events for this day. The events are meant as an invitation to learn more about some of the most pressing questions related to accessibility, inclusion, disabilities, and diversity - and to initiate positive change.

Wednesday, 5/22 to Thursday, 5/23

■ **Declaration of the Bab (Bahá'í)** - This holiday commemorates the Bab's prediction in Shiraz, Persia, in 1844 of the imminent appearance of the new messenger of God. This is one of the nine holy days when Baha'is refrain from work.

Thursday, 5/23

■ **Vesak/Buddha Day (Buddhist)** - Vesak is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C., that the Buddha was born.

Friday, 5/24

■ **Independence Day (Eritrea)** - This public holiday celebrates the day Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991.

■ **Culture and Literacy Day (Bulgaria)** - Culture and Literacy Day is a public holiday celebrated in Bulgaria each May 24 to celebrate the significance of the Bulgarian language and the Cyrillic alphabet.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Saturday, 5/25

■ Africa Day (Africa) - The annual commemoration of the creation of the Organisation of African Unity, formerly known as African Freedom Day and African Liberation Day, is held on May 25 every year. It is a day for Africans and those who love Africa to show the world that the continent is a force to be reckoned with and that the moment has come for African youngsters to define the Africa they want, on their terms, following centuries of being referred to in a negative and degrading manner.

■ Lag BaOmer (Jewish) - Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer count, is a festive day on the Jewish calendar. It is celebrated with outings (on which children traditionally play with bows and arrows), bonfires, parades and other joyous events. Many visit the resting place (in Meron, northern Israel) of the great sage and mystic Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the anniversary of whose passing is on this day. Begins at sundown on this day and ends at nightfall the following day.

■ Independence Day (Jordan) - This marks the day in 1946 that Jordan under the Hashemite Monarchy gained independence from Britain. 

■ Heroes' Day (Lesotho) - A day meant to celebrate the heroism of those who fought for and secured freedom for Lesotho and other African states.

■ Resistance and Liberation Day (Lebanon) - Lebanon holds a series of activities for the Resistance and Liberation Day marking the end of Israel's 22-year-long military occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000.

Sunday, 5/26

■ Independence Day (Georgia) - After the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the collapse of the Russian Empire, the Democratic Republic of Georgia declared its independence on this day in 1918. 

■ Independence Day (Guyana) - Commemorates this day in 1966 when Guyana attained its independence from Great Britain. 

■ Mother's Day (Poland, Czech Republic) - A celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

■ Trinity Sunday (Christian) - The first Sunday after Pentecost, this day celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Monday, 5/27

■ NO CLASSES - MEMORIAL DAY - UIUC

■ NO CLASSES - MEMORIAL DAY - UIC

■ Memorial Day  (U.S.) - Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces.

■ Spring Bank Holiday (United Kingdom) - a national public holiday in the United Kingdom and is celebrated on the last Monday in May.

■ Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í) - This observance commemorates the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in 1892. This is one of the nine holy days when Bahá'ís refrain from work.

Tuesday, 5/28

■ LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Day (Australia) - LGBTQ+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day aims to help end violence and abuse within LGBTQ+ communities, by increasing visibility through the annual awareness day campaign.

Thursday, 5/30

■ Mother's Day (Nicaragua) - A celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

■ Harvest Festival (Malaysia) - Harvest Festival (widely known as Pesta Ka'amatan) is a public holiday celebrated on 30th and 31st May every year. It marks the end of the planting cycle, which means the time for harvest. It is a thanksgiving celebration for the spirits and gods providing the farmers fruitful reap and bless them having the good result on the following years.

■ Feast of Corpus Christi (Roman Catholic) - Is a feast that is celebrated on the second Thursday after Whit Sunday. It is a Catholic holiday that celebrates the presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ through Holy Communion (Eucharist).



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

In June, we also honor National Caribbean-American Heritage, Immigrant Heritage, Gun Violence Awareness, Great Outdoors, and National Men's Health Awareness.

Saturday, 6/1

- Independence Day (Samoa) - In 1962, Samoa gained its independence from New Zealand. Although the date happened on January 1, Samoa celebrates it each year on June 1. 
- Global Day of Parents (International) - Honors parents and caregivers around the world.

Sunday, 6/2

- Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 (U.S.) - On June 2, 1924, Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. The right to vote, however, was governed by state law; until 1957, some states barred Native Americans from voting.

Monday, 6/3

- **FULL-TERM and FIRST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN - UIS**

Wednesday, 6/5

- World Environment Day (International) - World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 and encourages awareness and action for the protection of the

Pride Month - During the month of June, we celebrate and commemorate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer pride. Born out of the **Stonewall Rebellion**, modern-day Pride Month honors the movement for LGBT rights and celebrates LGBT culture.

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month - Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month is observed in June as an opportunity to spread the word about and discuss Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Purple is the official color of the Alzheimer's movement.

environment. A reminder that people's actions on plastic pollution matters.

Thursday, 6/6

- **INSTRUCTION ENDS (SUMMER SESSION I) - UIC**
- Independence Day (Sweden) - On this day in 1523, Sweden gained independence from Denmark. 
- D-Day Invasion (Canada, France, U.K., U.S.) - D-Day was the name given to the June 6, 1944, invasion of the beaches at Normandy in northern France by troops from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries during World War II. France at the time was occupied by the armies of Nazi Germany, and the assault landed some 156,000 Allied soldiers on the beaches of Normandy by the end of the day. Historians often refer to D-Day as the beginning of the end of World War II.
- Memorial Day (South Korea) - South Korea honors soldiers and civilians who have given their lives for their country.

June 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Friday, 6/7

- **FINAL EXAMINATIONS (SUMMER SESSION I) - UIC**
- Feast of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic) - A celebration by Catholics to remember Jesus Christ's tremendous love for all of humanity and is celebrated 19 days after Pentecost, which always falls on a Friday.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Sunday, 6/9

■ Race Unity Day (Bahá'í) - The Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly established Race Unity Day in 1957 to combat racism in the United States and promote more unity for all. The Bahá'í's believe racial prejudice is the most challenging moral issue facing our nation and is the greatest barrier to peace. The holiday is an annual observation that falls on the second Sunday of June.

Monday, 6/10

■ **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SUMMER SESSION II) - UIC**

■ Abolition Day (French Guiana) - This day commemorates the abolition of slavery in French Guiana in 1848. 

■ Reconciliation Day (Congo) - This holiday is held in commemoration of the Conference on National Sovereignty that began on this day in 1991. This day fosters reconciliation among the country's diverse racial groups. 

■ Duanwu/Dragon Boat Festival (China, Hong Kong) - Has been celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar for millennia. During this festival, people across Asia, and especially Central and Southern China, gather to watch dragon-shaped boats race along river banks and lakes. A customary food for this three-day holiday is a dumpling made of rice and a sweet filling wrapped in a bamboo leaf.

Tuesday, 6/11 to Thursday, 6/13

■ Shavuot/Festival of Weeks (Jewish) - is a two-day holiday that commemorates the date when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai over 3,000 years ago. Preceded by 49 days of counting in eager anticipation, Shavuot is celebrated through desisting from work, candle-lit dinners, staying up all night to study the Torah, listening to the reading of the Ten Commandments in synagogue, enjoying dairy foods and other festivities.

Tuesday, 6/11

■ Puerto Rican Day Parade (U.S.) - Is the largest demonstration of cultural pride in the nation. Now in its 66th year, the parade takes place from 44th Street to 79th Street along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, in honor of the 3.5 million inhabitants of Puerto Rico and over 5 million people residing in the United States. 

Wednesday, 6/12

■ Independence Day (Philippines) - On this day in 1898, the Philippines declared its independence from Spain. Many Filipino Americans in the U.S. also celebrate this day. 

■ Russia Day (Russia) - On this day, in 1991, the Russian parliament formally declared Russian sovereignty from the Soviet Union. The holiday was officially established in 1992. 

■ King's Birthday (Australia) - Australians mark the official birthday of Charles III of the United Kingdom. Australia is a constitutional monarchy with the King or Queen of the UK acting as the head of state.

■ Loving Day (U.S.) - Loving Day is the anniversary of a historic court decision for interracial marriage. Every year on June 12th, it's a global day of visibility, education, and community.

Thursday, 6/13

■ Ascension Day (Coptic Orthodox Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian) - This marks the anniversary of the day Coptic Orthodox Christians and Eastern Orthodox Christians believe that Jesus rose to heaven.

Friday, 6/14

■ Liberation Day (Falkland Islands) - Commemorates the day in 1982 when the Falkland Islands gained liberation from Argentine occupation. 

■ Flag Day (U.S.) - Many Americans celebrate this day by displaying Red, White, and Blue in front of homes and businesses. Commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. 

Friday evening, 6/14 to Wednesday, 6/19

■ The Hajj (Islam) - More than 2 million Muslims from around the world begin a five-day Hajj pilgrimage. They will circle Islam's most sacred site, the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca, and take part in a series of rituals intended to bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims. The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, and all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform it once in their lifetime. The Hajj is seen as a chance to wipe clean past sins and start fresh. Many seek to deepen their faith on the Hajj.

Saturday, 6/15

■ Arafat/Arafah Day (Islam) - Commemorates the day the Prophet Muhammad gave his farewell sermon. It is the greatest day of the entire year in the Islamic calendar. Arafah is the ninth day of Dhul hijjah, the 12th and final month in the Islamic calendar. It occurs on the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. This day is the perfect opportunity to ask for forgiveness for past sins and earn amazing rewards for good deeds.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Sunday, 6/16

■ Youth Day (South Africa) - This public holiday is an honor to Mzansi young people who opposed the apartheid regime and helped South Africa attain independence. Colonialists killed and jailed many Black young people during the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

■ Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh) - Is observed on June 16 every year in India. It's the day to commemorate and celebrate the life of religious figure Guru Arjan Dev who sacrificed his life for the Sikh people.

Sunday, 6/16 to Wednesday, 6/19

■ Eid al-Adha/The Feast of Sacrifice (Islam) - Is celebrated by Muslims all over the world as a major holiday for a period of three to four days. The majority of Muslims will attend the special prayers held at different major mosques and Islamic centers in the United States and all over the world. Muslims usually wear new clothes and some exchange gifts while children are entertained and take a day off from school, including college students. Many Muslims also do not go to work on that day.

Monday, 6/17

■ Independence Day (Iceland) - This day was chosen as the official holiday celebrating Iceland's independence from Denmark in 1944. 

Tuesday, 6/18

■ International Day of Countering Hate Speech (International) - In response to the alarming trends of growing xenophobia, racism and intolerance, violent misogyny, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred around the world, the United Nations launched a plan and strategy of action on hate speech on this day in 2019. This day commemorates the continued fight against speech.

■ Autistic Pride Day (International) - Is a day where people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) celebrate their neurodiversity and differences. 

Wednesday, 6/19

■ NO CLASSES - JUNETEENTH - UIUC

■ NO CLASSES - JUNETEENTH - UIS

■ NO CLASSES - JUNETEENTH - UIC

■ Juneteenth ★ (U.S.) - Juneteenth, an annual commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States after the Civil War, has been celebrated by African Americans since the late 1800s. President Biden signed legislation in 2021 that made Juneteenth. 

Friday, 6/21

■ Litha/Summer Solstice (Pagan, Wiccan) - Litha is the name given to the Wiccan Sabbat celebrated at the Summer Solstice. This is the longest day and shortest night of the year, marking the pinnacle of the Sun's power to fuel the growing season.

■ National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada) - A day to celebrate the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuits and Métis indigenous peoples of Canada.

■ National Day Against Forced Disappearance (Guatemala) - Commemorates the trade unionists from the National Central of Workers (CNT) who went missing on June 21, 1980, as well as all the victims of enforced disappearance.

Saturday, 6/22

■ Windrush Day (United Kingdom) - The day marks the arrival of Afro-Caribbean immigrants to the shores of Britain and honors the British Caribbean community.

■ Midsummer Eve (Sweden) - Is a de facto public holiday in Sweden with offices and many shops closed to mark the period of time in the middle of the summer.

Sunday, 6/23

■ Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian, Coptic Orthodox Christian) - Pentecost is observed according to the Julian calendar. Observed 50 days after Easter, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

■ International Women in Engineering Day - Celebrated around the world to honor women in the field of engineering. Focuses on raising the profile of women who are changing the field of engineering one degree at a time.

Monday, 6/24

■ St. Jean-Baptiste Day/Festival of St. John the Baptist (Canada, Puerto Rico) - Commemorates the feast day of St. John the Baptist. Canadians honor St. Jean-Baptiste, the patron saint of French Canada, and celebrate their country's rich French heritage. In Puerto Rico, this holiday honors the patron saint and is celebrated with music, feasting, dancing, and parades. The island was originally named San Juan Bautista in honor of St. John the Baptist, and even the capital city, San Juan, still bears his name.

■ Whit Monday/Monday of the Holy Spirit (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Is the first day of the afterfeast of Pentecost, being dedicated specifically to the honor of God the Holy Spirit and particularly in commemoration of his descent upon the apostles at Pentecost.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Tuesday, 6/25

■ Independence Day (Mozambique) - Commemorates the day in 1975 when Mozambique gained independence from Portuguese colonial rule. 

■ Independence Day (Croatia) - On June 25, 1991, Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia. 

■ Battle of Little Bighorn (Native American, U.S.) - Was fought on June 25, 1876, near the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory, that pitted federal troops led by Colonel Custer against Lakota Sioux and Cheyenne warriors led under the command of Sitting Bull. Colonel Custer's forces were outnumbered and quickly overwhelmed in what became known as Custer's Last Stand.

Wednesday, 6/26

■ Independence Day (Madagascar) - Commemorates the day in 1960 when Madagascar gained independence from French colonial rule. 

■ Independence Day (Somali Republic) - Commemorates the day in 1960 when British Somaliland became independent as the State of Somaliland. Five days later, on July 1, 1960, the territory united with the Trust Territory of Somalia to form the Somali Republic. 

■ Independence Day (Seychelles) - On this day in 1976, the Seychelles became an independent republic after having been a British colony since 1903. 

Thursday, 6/27

■ Independence Day (Djibouti) - This public holiday marks the day in 1977 that Djibouti, formerly known as French Somaliland, gained independence from French colonial rule.

Friday, 6/28

■ Stonewall Rebellion (U.S.) - This day in 1969 marks the beginning of the Stonewall Uprising, a series of events between police and LGBTQIA+ protesters which stretched over six days. It was not the first time police raided a gay bar, and it was not the first time LGBTQIA+ people fought back, but the events that would unfold over the next six days would fundamentally change the discourse surrounding LGBTQIA+ activism in the United States.

■ Treaty of Versailles (International) - The Treaty of Versailles was signed by Germany and the Allied Nations on June 28, 1919, formally ending World War One. The terms of the treaty required that Germany pay financial reparations, disarm, lose territory, and give up all of its overseas colonies.

Saturday, 6/29

■ MID-POINT (SUMMER SEMESTER) - UIS

■ St. Peter and St. Paul Day (Christian) - St. Peter and Paul's Day is celebrated on June 29th. It is honored across the world, but it is only a major holiday in Rome. Schools, banks and stores are closed, as well as the Vatican, and the city is full of both religious and secular celebrations.

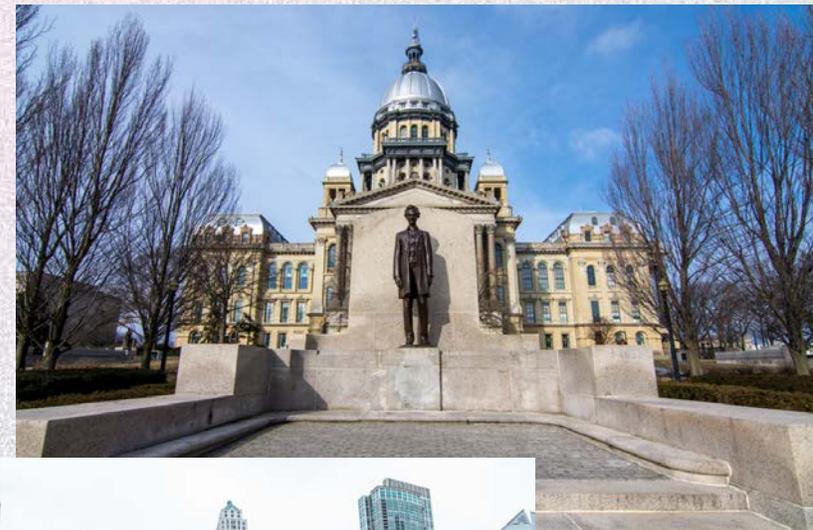
■ Armed Forces Day (U.K.) - Annual event commemorating the service of individuals in the British Armed Forces.

Sunday, 6/30

■ Independence Day (Congo) - Public holiday commemorating the day in 1960 when the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly known as Belgian Congo or Zaire, gained independence from Belgium. 

■ Prayer Day (Central African Republic) - Inhabitants of the Central African Republic observe General Prayer Day every year on June 30. This holiday unites all people of CAR regardless their religion and political views. 

■ All Saints Day (Eastern Orthodox Christian) - Observed on the Sunday after Pentecost, this day marks the close of the Easter season. This is the day when all the saints are honored, especially those who do not have a day of their own.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

There are several awareness months celebrated in July — though the five that often get the most attention include Disability Pride Month, National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, French-American Heritage Month, National Bison Month, and Plastic Free July.

Monday, 7/1

- **LAST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN (SUMMER)- UIS**
- Special Administration Region Establishment Day (Hong Kong) - Public holiday commemorating the anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong from the U.K. to mainland China in 1997. 🌸
- Canada Day (Canada) - Commemorates the joining of Canada's original three provinces (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canada province, which is now Ontario and Quebec) as one nation in 1867. Events start early in the morning and go until the evening. They include parades, barbecues, fireworks displays, concerts, and also welcome ceremonies for those who recently became citizens. 🇨🇦
- Independence Day (Rwanda) - On this day in 1962, Rwanda separated from Burundi and gained independence. 🇷🇼

Disability Pride Month - Disability Pride Month celebrates disabled persons embracing their disabilities as integral parts of who they are, reclaiming visibility in public and interacting fully with their disabilities out in the open, and rejecting shame and internalized ableism. It is a time for the disability community to come together, uplift, and amplify one another's voices and be heard. Disability pride has been described as “accepting and honoring each person’s uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of human diversity.”

- Independence Day (Burundi) - National holiday celebrating Burundi's gaining independence from Belgium on this day in 1962. 🇧🇼
- Coming of the Light (Australia) - The 'Coming of the Light' is a holiday celebrated annually by Torres Strait Island people on July 1. The day recognises the point in time when Christianity came to the Torres Strait and the acceptance of Christianity (the Light).

Wednesday, 7/3

- Tirgan Nowruz Festival (Persia/Iran) - Tirgan is a time-honored Iranian festival usually observed as a rain festival. As one of the most important festivals of the ancient Iranians, it is held on the first day of summer as a symbol of miracles, blessings of agriculture, and water protection.
- Independence Day (Belarus) - National holiday celebrating the liberation of Minsk on this day in 1944. 🇧🇪
- Independence Day (Bahamas) - Commemorates the Bahamas gaining independence from Great Britain in 1973. Celebrations run from July 3 through July 10. 🇧🇸

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Thursday, 7/4

- **NO CLASSES - 4TH OF JULY - UIUC**
- **CAMPUS CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY - UIS**
- **NO CLASSES - INDEPENDENCE DAY - UIC**
- 4th of July/Independence Day ★ (U.S.) - The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. 🇺🇸

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING


Liberation Day (Northern Mariana Islands) - On this day in 1945, Northern Mariana Islands separated from Japan. 


Republic Day (Philippines) - Also called Filipino-American Friendship Day, marks the alliance with the U.S. **Thursday, 7/4.**


Liberation Day (Rwanda) - Marks the end of a period under a tyrannical government and the beginning of freedom from oppression. The date is also the anniversary of the Rwandan Patriotic Front liberating the country and ending the 1994 genocide. The day is known locally as 'Kwibohora.' 

Friday, 7/5


Independence Day (Algeria) - Independence Day is celebrated on July 5th, the day of the fall of Algiers in 1830 and the beginning of French Algeria. 


Independence Day (Cape Verde) - Effective date of the Agreement Between Portugal and Partido Africano para a Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC) signed on December 18th, 1974. 


Independence Day (Guinea-Bissau) - On this day in 1975, Guinea-Bissau gained independence from Portugal.


Independence Day (Venezuela) - On this day in 1811, Venezuela gained independence from the Spanish Empire.

Saturday, 7/6


Independence Day (Comoros) - Commemorates Comoros gaining independence from France in 1975.


Independence Day (Malawi) - Commemorates Malawi gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1964.

Sunday, 7/7


Independence Day (Solomon Islands) - Commemorates the Solomon Islands gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1978.

Sunday, 7/7 - Monday, 7/8


Hijri New Year/Islamic New Year (Islam) - Beginning of the new Islamic calendar, 1st of Muharram. **Begins evening before and ends in the evening after.*

Monday, 7/8

SECOND 4-WEEKS OF INSTRUCTION BEGINS (SUMMER SESSION II) - UIUC


Martyrdom of the Bab (Bahá'í) - Commemoration of the martyrdom of one of the founders of the Bahá'í religion, which began in Iran in the year 1844. On this day, the Bahá'í people recount the execution of the Bab who was charged with the crime of apostasy in the year 1850 in the Persian Empire and then imprisoned along with his followers. **Begins at sundown and goes through the next day.*

Tuesday, 7/9


Independence Day (Argentina) - Commemorates Argentina gaining independence from the Spanish Empire in 1816.


Independence Day (South Sudan) - Commemorates South Sudan gaining independence from Sudan in 2011.

Wednesday, 7/10


Independence Day (Bahamas) - Commemorates the Bahamas gaining independence from Great Britain in 1973. Celebrations on this day resemble those of the Christmas festival Junkanoo, with parades featuring bright colors, masks and costumes similar to Mardi Gras celebrations.

Friday, 7/12


Independence Day (Kiribati) - Commemorates Kiribati gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1979.


Independence Day (São Tomé and Príncipe) - Commemorates São Tomé and Príncipe gaining independence from Portugal in 1975.

Sunday, 7/14


Bastille Day (France) - A national holiday in France. It commemorates the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789, when prisoners were set free, thus ending the French monarchy. The French Revolution resulted in France becoming a republic.


International Non-Binary People's Day (International) - Annual day celebrating the contributions of non-binary people and focusing on the issues affecting them.

Monday, 7/15


Marine Day/Uni no Hi (Japan) - A national holiday to honor the importance of the sea and its role in Japanese history and culture. Falls on 3rd Monday of July.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Tuesday, 7/16 - Wednesday, 7/17

■ **Ashura (Islam)** - Is a holy day for Muslims all over the world, observed on the 9th and 10th day of the Muharram. It is not a celebration but a respectful and mournful occasion for both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims. It is traditionally the day when the prophet Musa (Moses) freed the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and a day associated with Jesus' ascension to heaven. It is believed that God saved the prophet Nuh (Noah) and his companions from the genesis flood on this day. It is better known these days for mourning the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali, the grandson of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad at the Battle of Karbala in the year 61 AH (AD 680). Sunni Muslims believe that Moses fasted on this day to demonstrate gratitude to God for the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. Sunni Muslims also believe Muhammad fasted on this day and encouraged others to fast.

Wednesday, 7/17

■ **Constitution Day (South Korea)** - Commemorates the proclamation of the constitution of the Republic of Korea in 1948.

■ **Independence Day (Slovakia)** - Commemorates Slovakia gaining independence after the division of Czechoslovakia in 1992.

Friday, 7/19

■ **Liberation Day (Nicaragua)** - Commemorates the day in 1979 that the army claimed victory over the dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

Saturday, 7/20

■ **Independence Day (Colombia)** - Commemorates the day in 1810 when Colombia declared its independence from the Spanish Empire.

■ **Asalha Puja/Dharma Day (Buddhist)** - Dharma Day commemorates the Buddha's first sermon following his attainment of enlightenment. Dharma Day is typically celebrated by paying homage to the Buddha and his teaching, attending and donating to temples, and by being grateful.

Sunday, 7/21

■ **National Day (Belgium)** - Commemorates the day in 1831 when Belgium declared its independence from the United Netherlands with the ascension of Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld to the throne.

■ **Liberation Day (Guam)** - Commemorates the day in 1944 when Guam gained liberation from Japan.

Tuesday, 7/23

■ **Revolution Day (Egypt)** - Commemorates the revolution of 1952, ending the Egyptian monarchy.

Wednesday, 7/24

■ **Pioneer Day (Latter-Day Saints)** - This day honors the U.S. pioneers led by Brigham Young, who first settled in Utah in 1847. This day is celebrated with parades and remembering their pioneering ancestors.

Thursday, 7/25

■ **Constitution Day (Puerto Rico)** - Commemorates the approval of a constitution in 1952.

Friday, 7/26

■ **Independence Day (Netherlands)** - Commemorates the Netherlands gaining independence from the Spanish Empire on this day in 1581.

■ **National Disability Independence Day (U.S.)** - Celebrates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which provides for reasonable accommodation in work situations and also standards for physical accessibility to buildings and public transportation.

■ **Independence Day (Liberia)** - Commemorates Liberia adopting a constitution in 1847, establishing Africa's first independent republic.

■ **Independence Day (Maldives)** - Commemorates Maldives gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1965.

Saturday, 7/27

■ **SUMMER SEMESTER ENDS - UIS**

Sunday, 7/28

■ **Fiestas Patrias/Independence Day (Peru)** - Commemorates Peru gaining independence from the Spanish Empire on this day in 1821.

Tuesday, 7/30

■ **International Day of Friendship (International)** - The U.N. General Assembly proclaimed in 2011 that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

■ **Independence Day (Vanuatu)** - Commemorates Vanuatu gaining independence from the United Kingdom and France on this day in 1980.

Wednesday, 7/31

■ **INSTRUCTION ENDS (SUMMER SESSION II) - UIC**

■ **Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola (Catholic)** - Commemorates the life of Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), who founded the Society of Jesus, the Roman Catholic religious order whose members are known as Jesuits.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

Thursday, 8/1

■ INSTRUCTION ENDS - 12 NOON (SUMMER II) - UIUC

■ READING DAY STARTS - 1PM (SUMMER II) - UIUC

■ Emancipation Day (Trinidad and Tobago ) - In 1833, slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. This day is a holiday observed since 1985 by those of African descent living in Trinidad and Tobago.

■ Swiss National Day (Switzerland) - This day celebrates the signing of the Swiss Federal Charter in 1291. All Swiss celebrate in a variety of ways, from fireworks and bonfires to brunches and BBQs with friends. 

■ Lughnasadh/Lammas (Pagan/Wiccan) - A festival that marks the beginning of the harvest season.

Thursday, 8/1 - Friday, 8/2

■ FINAL EXAMINATIONS (SUMMER SESSION II) - UIC

Friday, 8/2

■ FINAL EXAMINATIONS BEGIN (SUMMER II) - UIUC

Saturday, 8/3

■ FINAL EXAMINATIONS END (SUMMER II) - UIUC

■ Independence Day (Niger) - Commemorates Niger gaining independence from France in 1960. 

Monday, 8/5

■ Independence Day (Burkina Faso ) - Commemorates Burkina Faso gaining independence from France in 1960.

While there are several awareness months celebrated in August, the ones that often get the most attention include *National Black Business Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, Don't Be a Bully Month, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month, National Road Victim Month, and World Cancer Support Month.*

Tuesday, 8/6

■ Independence Day (Bolivia) - Commemorates Bolivia gaining independence from Spain in 1825. 

■ Independence Day (Jamaica ) - Commemorates Jamaica gaining independence from the U.K. in 1962.

Wednesday, 8/7

■ Independence Day (Ivory Coast ) - Commemorates Ivory Coast gaining independence from France in 1960.

Friday, 8/9

■ National Day (Singapore ) - Commemorates the day Singapore gained independence from Malaysia in 1965.

■ International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (International) - Day that is celebrated in order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, chosen in recognition by the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.

■ Naga Panchami (Hindu) - Is a holiday in which Hindus all over India and Nepal traditionally worship snakes. The purpose of this has been traditionally an attempt to pacify these snakes when they come out of their holes, as these snakes have historically proven dangerous to humans.

Saturday, 8/10

■ Independence Day (Ecuador) - Commemorates Ecuador gaining independence from the Spanish Empire in 1809. 

August 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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Sunday, 8/11

■ Independence Day (Chad) - Commemorates Chad gaining independence from France in 1960. 

Monday, 8/12 - Tuesday, 8/13

■ Tisha B'av (Judaism) - Is an annual fast day that is also known as one of the most tragic days in Jewish history since it saw a number of disasters that affected Jews for years to come. Begins at sundown and ends at nightfall the following day.

Tuesday, 8/13

■ Independence Day (Central African Republic) - Commemorates Central African Republic gaining independence from France in 1960. 

Wednesday, 8/14

■ Independence Day (Pakistan ) - Commemorates Pakistan gaining independence from the U.K. in 1947.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Thursday, 8/15

- Independence Day (India ) - Commemorates India gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1947.
- Independence Day (Republic of Congo) - Commemorates the Republic of Congo gaining independence from France in 1960. 
- National Liberation Day of Korea (North Korea) - Commemorates North Korea gaining liberation from Japan in 1945. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded in 1948. 
- National Liberation Day of Korea (South Korea) - Commemorates South Korea gaining liberation from Japan in 1945. The Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea was founded in 1919. 
- National Day (Liechtenstein) - Commemorates the government of the Principality of Liechtenstein officially declaring August 15th to be the country's national holiday to celebrate both the Feast of the Assumption and Prince Franz Josef II's birthday. 
- Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Christian) - Commemorates the taking of the Virgin Mary's body and soul into heaven.

Friday, 8/16

- Restoration Day (Dominican Republic) - Commemorates the Dominican Republic regaining independence from Spain in 1865. 

Saturday, 8/17

- Independence Day (Gabon) - Commemorates Gabon gaining independence from France in 1960. 
- Independence Day (Indonesia) - Commemorates Indonesia gaining independence from Japan and Netherlands in 1945. 

Sunday, 8/18

- Ullambana (Buddhist) - Also known as the Ghost Festival, people of the Buddhist faith celebrate their dead loved ones, as it is believed that their spirits return to the land of the living for the day.

Monday, 8/19

- Independence Day (Afghanistan) - Commemorates Afghanistan gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1919. 

Tuesday, 8/20

- Day of Restoration of Independence (Estonia) - Commemorates Estonia gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 

Friday, 8/23

■ **FULL-TERM/FIRST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN (FALL) - UIS**

Saturday, 8/24

- Independence Day (Ukraine) - Commemorates Ukraine gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 

Sunday, 8/25

- Independence Day (Uruguay) - Commemorates Uruguay gaining independence from the Empire of Brazil in 1825.

Monday, 8/26

- **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**
- **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIC**

- Women's Equality Day (United States) - A day declared in 1974 to honor the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution in 1920, granting voting rights to women.

- Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu) - A new moon festival celebrated with fasting in honor of the Hindu deity Lord Krishna. Celebrated at midnight, some people fast until midnight then celebrate with dancing and singing.

Tuesday, 8/27

- Independence Day (Moldova) - Commemorates Moldova gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 

Friday, 8/30

- Victory Day (Turkey) - Honors the warriors who died in the 1922 Battle of Dumlupinar, the final battle in the war of independence. The Mehtar band, the world's oldest military band, plays, and celebrations include military parades and fireworks. 

Saturday, 8/31

- Independence Day (Kyrgyzstan) - Commemorates Kyrgyzstan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 
- Independence Day (Malaysia) - Commemorates Malaysia gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1957. 
- Independence Day (Trinidad and Tobago) - Commemorates Trinidad and Tobago gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1962. 
- Day of Solidarity and Freedom (Poland) - Commemorates the formation of the first Polish labor union, Solidamosc (Solidarity), at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk in 1980. Solidarity was granted legal status on April 17, 1989, clearing the way for the downfall of the Polish Communist Party. 

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

While there are several awareness months celebrated in September, the ones that often get the most attention include *Blood Cancer Awareness Month, National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month, Library Card Sign-Up Month, and World Alzheimer's Disease Month.*

Sunday, 9/1

■ Independence Day (Uzbekistan) - Commemorates Uzbekistan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 

Monday, 9/2

- LABOR DAY - UIUC (No classes)
- LABOR DAY - UIC (No classes)
- LABOR DAY - UIS (Campus closed)

■ Labor Day ★ (Canada, United States) - On June 29, 1894, the U.S. Congress voted Labor Day as a National Holiday to honor working people's contribution of labor. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.

■ Independence Day (Vietnam) - Commemorates Vietnam gaining independence from Japan and France in 1945. 

Tuesday, 9/3

■ Independence Day (Qatar) - Commemorates Qatar gaining independence from Britain in 1971. 

National Hispanic Heritage Month - Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month - We use the month of September as a time to raise awareness of this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. We use this month to shift public perception, spread hope and share vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Friday, 9/6

■ Independence Day (Eswatini) - Commemorates Eswatini gaining independence from Britain in 1968. 

Saturday, 9/7

■ Independence Day (Brazil) - Commemorates Brazil gaining independence from Portugal in 1822. 

■ Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu) - A day of offering to Lord Ganesh, god of wisdom, success, and remover of obstacles. Celebrate with Lord Ganesh worship, dancing, special food - Modak (stuffed with freshly grated coconut and sugar).

Sunday, 9/8

■ Independence Day (North Macedonia) - Commemorates North Macedonia gaining independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. 

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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Monday, 9/9

■ Independence Day (Tajikistan) - Commemorates Tajikistan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 

■ Massoud Day (Afghanistan) - Commemorates a revered military commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, who died on this day in 2001. He was an Afghan military leader from Panjshir Valley who led the resistance against the Soviet invasion and the Taliban.

Tuesday, 9/10

■ Independence Day (Guinea-Bissau) - Commemorates Guinea-Bissau gaining independence from the Portugal in 1974. 

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Wednesday, 9/11

■ Patriot Day (United States) - Honors those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11th, 2001. A moment of silence is observed.

■ Enkutatash (Coptic and Ethiopian Orthodox Christian) - The Ethiopian New Year, celebrated as a national holiday. Enkutatash means, "gift of jewels," and related to the story of the ancient Ethiopian queen, the Queen of Sheba. After her visit with King Solomon in Jerusalem, the queen was offered fine jewels for her homecoming.

Sunday, 9/15

■ Independence Day (Costa Rica 🇨🇷) - Commemorates Costa Rica gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1821.

■ Independence Day (El Salvador 🇸🇻) - Commemorates El Salvador gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1821.

■ Independence Day (Guatemala 🇬🇹) - Commemorates Guatemala gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1821.

■ Independence Day (Honduras 🇧🇮) - Commemorates Honduras gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1821.

■ Independence Day (Nicaragua 🇳🇮) - Commemorates Nicaragua gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1821.

Sunday, 9/15 - Monday, 9/16

■ Eid e Milad (Islamic) - Commemorates the prophet Muhammad's birthday, ca. 570. Begins at sundown.

Monday, 9/16 - Wednesday, 9/18

■ Chuseok (North Korea, South Korea) - Also known as Hangawi. A mid-autumn harvest moon festival and three-day holiday, celebrating good harvest. Families gather for feasts and visit ancestors' graves to give thanks. Celebrated in many Asian countries under many names.

Monday, 9/16

■ Keiro-no-Hi/Respect for the Aged Day (Japan) - A national holiday honoring older citizens, especially those who are centenarians.

■ Independence Day (Mexico 🇲🇽) - Commemorates Mexico gaining independence from Spanish Empire in 1810.

■ Independence Day (Papua New Guinea 🇵🇬) - Commemorates Papua New Guinea gaining independence from Australia in 1975.

Tuesday, 9/17 - Wednesday, 10/2

■ Pitru Paksha (Hindu) - Pitru Paksha is a sixteen day period, in which Hindus honor and give respect to their ancestors.

Tuesday, 9/17

■ Citizenship Day (United States) - Honors those from other countries who become U.S. citizens each year and also the anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.

■ Tsukimi (Japan) - Also known as Otsukimi. The mid-autumn harvest festival honoring the moon at its fullest and brightest.

Wednesday, 9/18

■ Independence Day (Chile 🇨🇱) - Commemorates Chile gaining independence from the Spanish Empire in 1810.

■ International Equal Pay Day (International) - An attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, the figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. The date moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.

Thursday, 9/19

■ Independence Day (Saint Kitts and Nevis 🇰🇳) - Commemorates Saint Kitts and Nevis gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1983.

Friday, 9/20 - Thursday, 9/26

■ International Week of the Deaf (International) - First launched in Rome, Italy, in 1958, this is celebrated annually by the global Deaf Community. Activities call for participation and involvements of various stakeholders, including families, peers, governmental bodies, professional sign language interpreters, and organizations of persons with disabilities.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Saturday, 9/21

■ International Day of Peace (International) - A day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, and an invitation to all nations and people to honor cessation of hostilities.

■ Independence Day (Armenia ) - Commemorates Armenia gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

■ Independence Day (Belize ) - Commemorates Belize gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1981.

■ Independence Day (Malta ) - Commemorates Malta gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1964.

Saturday, 9/21 - Sunday, 10/6

■ Oktoberfest Germany) - A two-week harvest celebration observed by feasting, music, dance and other folk customs. The festival began in 1810 and traditionally commenced when the Lord Mayor of Munich tapped the first keg of beer.

Saturday, 9/21 - Tuesday, 9/24

■ Mabon Festival (Pagan, Wiccan) - This harvest festival, falling on the autumnal equinox, signifies the middle of the harvest cycle, when both days and nights are of equal length. This is a day of balance and harmony.

Sunday, 9/22

■ Independence Day (Bulgaria ) - Commemorates Bulgaria gaining independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1908.

■ Independence Day (Mali ) - Commemorates Mali gaining independence from France in 1960.

Monday, 9/23

■ Celebrate Bisexuality Day (International) - Also known as Bi Visibility Day. Raises awareness about bisexuality and challenges bisexual and biromantic erasure.

Tuesday, 9/24

■ Independence Day (Guinea-Bissau ) - Commemorates Guinea-Bissau gaining independence from Portugal in 1973.

■ Heritage Day (South Africa) - Celebrates cultural diversity and serves as a time for South Africans of various heritages to strengthen bonds.

Friday, 9/27

■ Meskel (Ethiopian Orthodox Christian) - This public holiday in Ethiopia and Eritrea commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Queen Helena in the 4th century. This is the first big festival of the Ethiopian religious year.

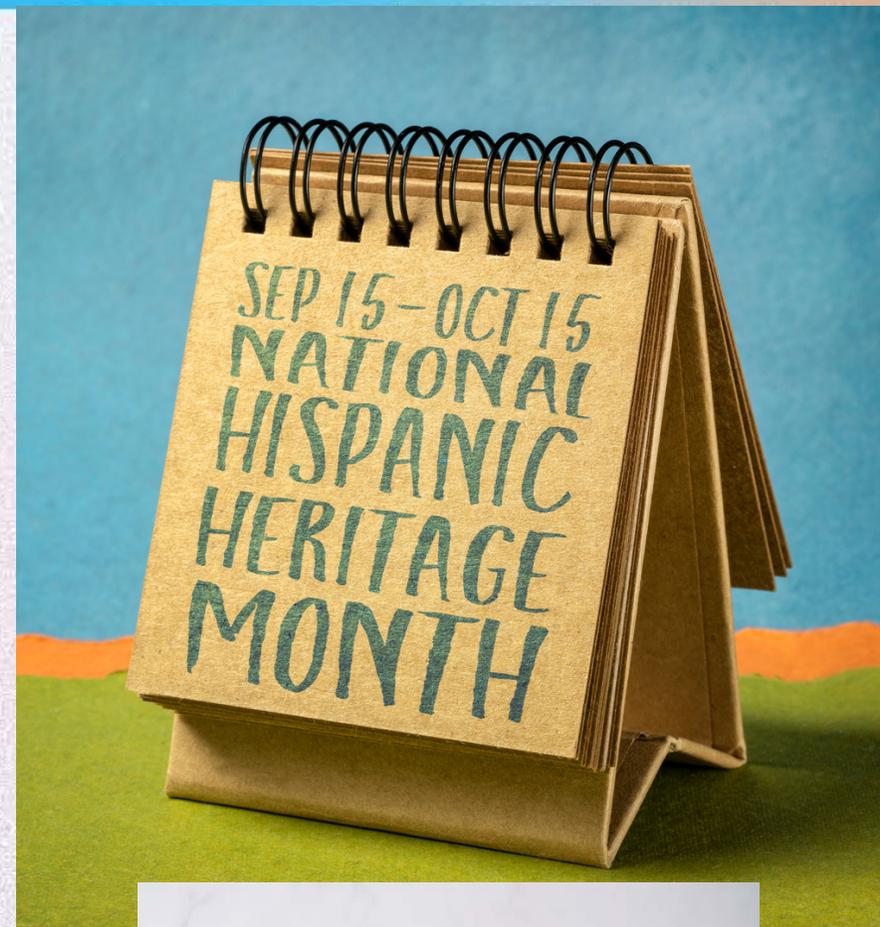
■ Independence Day (Turkmenistan ) - Commemorates Turkmenistan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Saturday, 9/28

■ Confucious Day (China, Taiwan) - Commemorates the birth in 551 BCE of the teacher Confucious, who was perhaps one of the most influential men in Chinese history. He stressed five virtues: charity, justice, propriety, wisdom, and loyalty.

Monday, 9/30

■ Independence Day (Botswana ) - Commemorates Botswana gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

National Disability Employment Awareness Month -
 This month celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities, past and present, and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices. The month is meant to recognize the important role that people with disabilities play in a diverse and inclusive American workforce.

Wednesday, 10/2 - Friday, 10/4*

■ Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) - The Jewish New Year, celebrating the anniversary of the creation of the world. Begins a period of penitence and spiritual renewal at sundown the night before and ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur. Can last 1-2 days and is celebrated with prayers and religious services.
 *Begins and ends in the evening.

Wednesday, 10/2

- Gandhi's Birthday (India) - Marks the birth of Mahatma Candhi in 1869. He was born in Porbander, India, and is honored as a leader of Indian nationalism and Hindu religious beliefs.
- Mehregan/Autumn Festival (Iran) - Celebrates God creating the sun, which gave light to the world. The mythical king Fereydoon brought peace to earth on this day by defeating Zahak, an evil symbol.
- Independence Day (Guinea) - Commemorates Guinea gaining independence from France in 1958.

Thursday, 10/3 - Saturday, 10/12

- Navrati (Hindu) - An annual Hindu festival observed in honor of the goddess Durga, spanning nine nights.

October 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Thursday, 10/3

- Tag der Deutschen Einheit/Day of Unity (Germany) - Commemorates German reunification in 1990 when the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) were unified.
- Independence Day (Iraq) - Commemorates Iraq gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1932.
- Tangun Day/National Foundation Day (South Korea) - Observes when the legendary Tangun, founder of the nation, established his kingdom of Chosun in 2333 B.C.

While there are several awareness months celebrated in October, the ones that often get the most attention include *ADHD Awareness Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Depression Awareness Month, LGBTQIA+ History Month, and National Book Month.*

Tuesday, 10/1

- Independence Day (Cyprus) - Commemorates Cyprus gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1960.
- Independence Day (Nigeria) - Commemorates Nigeria gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1960.
- Independence Day (Palau) - Commemorates Palau gaining independence from being a part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific administered by the U.S.
- Independence Day (Tuvalu) - Commemorates Tuvalu gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1978.
- National Day (China) - A two-day celebration of the founding of the people's republic of China in 1949.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Friday, 10/4

■ Independence Day (Lesotho 🇱🇸) - Commemorates Lesotho gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.

■ Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Christian) - St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of becoming a knight, donned the clothes of a poor farmer and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order which today has about 33,000 members. He died on October 3, 1226.

Tuesday, 10/8

■ International Lesbian Day (International) - A day for lesbians of the world to come together to celebrate lesbian history, diversity, and culture. Gives an opportunity for women, families, and friends to connect, celebrate, and raise awareness about the importance of community.

Wednesday, 10/9 - Sunday, 10/13

■ Durga Puja (Hindu) - This festival revered and pays homage to the Hindu goddess, Durga. It marks victory of Goddess Durga in her battle against a demon, Mahishasura. It also marks celebration of women power. Festival includes worship of the Goddess, performance arts, revelry, gift giving, family visits, feasting, and public processions, etc.

Wednesday, 10/9

■ Hangul Day (South Korea) - Celebrates the invention of the 24-letter phonetic Korean alphabet, Hangul, in 1446 under the direction of King Sejong of the Yi dynasty.

■ Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States) - Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates and honor the Indigenous peoples of America and commemorates their shared history and culture.

■ Independence Day (Uganda 🇺🇬) - Commemorates Uganda gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1962.

Thursday, 10/10

■ Independence Day (Fiji 🇫🇯) - Commemorates Fiji gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1970.

■ Double Tenth Day (Taiwan) - A commemoration of the proclamation of the Chinese republic in 1911.

Friday, 10/11 - Saturday, 10/12

■ Yom Kippur (Jewish) - The Jewish Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn day on the Jewish calendar, commonly spent in worship and contemplation. Begins at sundown the previous day.

Friday, 10/11

■ U.S. General Pulaski Memorial Day (United States) - Commemorates the death of the Polish count, who was a hero of the American Revolution.

■ National Coming Out Day (United States) - Celebrates coming out as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, and pushes for environments in which people can safely come out.

Saturday, 10/12

■ Independence Day (Equatorial Guinea 🇬🇶) - Commemorates Equatorial Guinea gaining independence from Spain in 1968.

■ Vijayadashmi/Dussehra (Hindu) - Is a major Hindu festival. It is celebrated for victory of Lord Ram over Ravana, victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura. It includes processions, feasting and gifting. Also a demon Ravana statue is burnt that symbolizes victory over evil.

■ Nossa Senhora de Aparecida (Brazil) - Celebrates Brazil's patron saint, the Virgin Mary Aparecida.

Wednesday, 10/16

■ International Pronouns Day (International) - Seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.

Wednesday, 10/16 - Wednesday, 10/23

■ Sukkot/Feast of Booths (Jewish) - An eight-day festival commemorating the divine protection given to the Israelites during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. Also a festival of giving thanks and celebrating the fall harvest. Begins at sundown the previous day.

Friday, 10/18

■ Independence Restoration Day (Azerbaijan) - Commemorates Azerbaijan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. 🇦🇿

■ **8-WEEK PART TERM A ENDS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIC**

Saturday, 10/19

■ MID-POINT - UIS

Monday, 10/21

■ **8-WEEK PART TERM B BEGINS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIC**

■ **LAST-HALF CLASSES BEGIN (FALL SEMESTER) - UIS**

Wednesday, 10/23

■ Chulalongkorn Day (Thailand) - Commemorates the 1920 death of the king who abolished slavery in the 1800s.

■ Double Ninth Festival (China, Taiwan) - A day on which families visit the graves of their ancestors.

Thursday, 10/24 - Friday, 10/25

■ Simchat Torah (Jewish) - Means "rejoicing in the Torah" and immediately follows Sukkot. It celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Torah. Begins at sundown.

Thursday, 10/24

■ Independence Day (Zambia 🇿🇲) - Commemorates Zambia gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1964.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Saturday, 10/26

■ Day of the Deployed (United States) - Honors our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and sacrifices for our country. Supporters of the military can provide care packages, messages of encouragement, and other morale-boosting actions for those currently deployed overseas and the military families of the deployed.

■ Intersex Awareness Day  (International) - Marks the fight for the rights and recognition intersex people deserve. Seeks to raise awareness about intersex individuals and their needs, as well as the medical harm, stigma, and isolation intersex people have experienced.

Sunday, 10/27

■ Independence Day (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) - Commemorates Saint Vincent and the Grenadines gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1979. 

Monday, 10/28

■ Ohi Day (International) - Also known as Oxi Day or Ochi Day, commemorated by Greeks in remembrance of the moment when the prime minister of Greece refused to let the Italian troops enter Greece's border on October 28, 1940 during the Greco-Italian War. Oxi means "No!" in Greek.

■ Independence Day (Czech Republic ) - Commemorates Czech Republic gaining independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918.

■ Independence Day (Slovakia ) - Commemorates Slovakia gaining independence from Austria-Hungary in 1918.

Tuesday, 10/29

■ Cumhuriyet Bayrami/Republic Day (Turkey) - Anniversary of the 1923 founding of the republic.

Thursday, 10/31 - Friday, 11/1

■ Karva Chauth (Hindu) - A fast honoring the god Shiva and goddess Parvati. It is given special consideration by Hindu women to ensure the welfare, prosperity and longevity of their husbands.

■ Samhain (Pagan, Wiccan) - A festival marking the end of the harvest and remembering the dead. Begins at nightfall and ends at sunset the following day.

Thursday, 10/31

■ Halloween (Canada, United States) - Originated as a Celtic festival marking the day that souls revisited the earth. Aspects of this tradition later integrated with the Christian holiday of All Hallows' Eve, which occurs the night before All Saints' (Hallows') Day.

■ Reformation Day (Christian, Protestant) - Commemorates the date in 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (propositions) to the door of Wittenberg's Palace Church, which led to the establishment of the Protestant denominations of Christianity.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

While there are several awareness months celebrated in November, the ones that often get the most attention include *Movember, Diabetes Awareness Month, Epilepsy Awareness Month, and National Homeless Youth Month.*

Friday, 11/1

- All Saints' Day (Christian) - A festival of all known and unknown Christian saints.
- *Día de Muertos*/Day of the Dead (Mexico) - A celebration that blends the Christian and Aztec traditions. Departed souls are remembered with a spirit of friendliness and good humor instead of mourning.
- Revolution Day (Algeria) - Commemorates the beginning of the revolution against the French in 1954, which led to independence in 1962.
- Independence Day (Antigua and Barbuda 🇧🇧) - Commemorates Antigua and Barbuda gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1981.
- Diwali (Hindu) - Although there are multiple days, Lakshmi-pujan is the most celebrated one. Festival of lights marking the beginning of the New Year. Lights, bonfires, and fireworks welcome gods, ancestors, family and friends.

National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month - November is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.

National Veteran and Military Families Month - This month was established in 1996 as a time to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices military families make, such as contending with separation from their families and making adjustments to new living situations and communities. This month honors the strength, resilience, and courage.

■ Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikh) - Commemorates the sixth Guru of Sikhs. Celebrated by the lighting up of homes and celebratory processions. Often overlaps with Hindu Diwali.

Saturday, 11/2 - Sunday, 11/3*

■ Birth of the Bab (Bahá'í) - Remembers the 1819 birth of Siyyid Ali Muhammad, who took the title of "the Bab" and is recognized as prophet herald of the faith.

**Begins at sundown.*

Saturday, 11/2

- All Souls' Day (Catholic) - A day to remember the dead.
- *Dziady*/Remembrance Day (Belarus) - An age-old Belarussian tradition originating out of Pagan times and later adopted into Christianity. A special plate and glass is set at dinner in remembrance of deceased relatives.

November 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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■ Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie (Rastafarianism) - The day when Haile Selassie ascended the Ethiopian throne. This is one of the holiest days in the Rastafarian year.

Sunday, 11/3

- *Bunka-no-Hi*/Culture Day (Japan) - A holiday to promote the love of freedom, peace and cultural development.
- Independence Day (Dominica 🇩🇲) - Commemorates Dominica gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1978.
- Independence Day (Micronesia 🇲🇫) - Commemorates Micronesia gaining independence from the United States in 1986.
- Separation Day (Panama) - Commemorates Panama gaining independence from Colombia in 1903. 🇵🇦

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Wednesday, 11/6

■ Constitution Day (Dominican Republic 🇩🇴) - Commemorates Panama gaining independence from Colombia in 1903.

Friday, 11/8

■ Intersex Day of Remembrance (International) - Also known as Intersex Day of Solidarity. Highlights the continued need to advocate for the right to be biologically different and seeks to provide necessary education.

Saturday, 11/9

■ Independence Day (Cambodia 🇰🇲) - Commemorates Cambodia gaining independence from France in 1953.

Monday, 11/11

■ Veterans Day ★ (United States) - Formerly known as Armistice Day, honors those who served in all the country's wars.

■ Independence Day (Angola 🇦🇴) - Commemorates Angola gaining independence from Portugal in 1975.

■ Independence Day (Poland 🇵🇱) - Commemorates Poland gaining independence from the Russian Republic, Austria-Hungary, and German Empire in 1918.

Wednesday, 11/13 - Tuesday, 11/19

■ Transgender Awareness Week (International) - Meant to raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face. Goal is to educate the community about who transgender people are, share their stories and experiences, and advance advocacy around issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community. Culminates with the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

Thursday, 11/14

■ Children's Day (India) - Honors all children and commemorates the 1889 birth of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first premier of India.

Friday, 11/15

■ Guru Nanak's Birthday (Sikh) - Commemorates the 1469 birth of Guru Nanak, the founder of the religion. Elements of both Hinduism and Islam influenced the doctrinal base of Sikhism as laid down by Guru Nanak and developed the continuous line of nine spiritual leaders who followed him. During the "Age of the Gurus" (1469-1708), the religious movement acquired an identity of its own.

■ Proclamation of the Republic Day (Brazil) - Commemorates the 1889 proclamation that deposed Emperor Dom Pedro II and instituted a republic.

■ *Shichi-Go-San*/Seven-Five-Three Festival (Japan) - An ancient celebration that marks the special ages of seven, five and three.

■ Independence Day/National Day (Palestine 🇵🇸) - Commemorates Palestine gaining independence from Israel in 1988.

Saturday, 11/16

■ Jain New Year (Jainism) - A day celebrated on the first day after the month of Kartika.

Monday, 11/18

■ *Fete de l'Independence*/Independence Day (Morocco 🇲🇦) - Commemorates Morocco gaining independence from France in 1956.

■ Independence Day (Latvia 🇱🇻) - Commemorates Latvia gaining independence from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and the German Empire in 1918.

■ Independence Day/National Day (Oman 🇴🇲) - Commemorates Oman gaining independence from Portugal in 1650.

Tuesday, 11/19

■ Discovery Day (Puerto Rico) - Celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Puerto Rico on his second voyage to the New World in 1493.

Wednesday, 11/20

■ Revolution Day (Mexico) - Commemorates the revolution of 1910, when the common people revolted against poverty and dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz. The revolution, led by Francisco Indalecio Madero, culminated in the Constitution of 1917.

■ Transgender Day of Remembrance (International) - Founded by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Amith as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began this annual world-wide observance. Vigils are held yearly to honor the lives of those lost to anti-transgender violence, often involving reading a list of the names of those who died that year.

Friday, 11/22

■ Independence Day (Lebanon 🇱🇸) - Commemorates Lebanon gaining independence from France in 1943.

Saturday, 11/23- Sunday, 12/1

■ FALL BREAK - UIUC

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

Saturday, 11/23

■ **Kinro Kansha-no-Hi/Labor Thanksgiving Day (Japan)** - A holiday to honor working people and productivity.

Monday, 11/25

■ **Independence Day (Suriname )** - Commemorates Suriname gaining independence from the Netherlands in 1975.

Thursday, 11/28 - Friday, 11/29

■ **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - UIC**

Wednesday, 11/27 - Friday, 11/29

■ **THANKSGIVING RECESS - UIS**

Thursday, 11/28

■ **Thanksgiving Day ** (United States) - Annual national holiday celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. This holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.

■ **Republic Day (Republic of the Congo )** - Commemorates Congo gaining independence from France in 1958.

■ **National Day of Mourning (United States)** - An annual observance that aims to honor Native American heritage in the United States, dispel myths surrounding the Thanksgiving story in the U.S., and raise awareness toward historical and ongoing struggles facing Native American tribes.

■ **Proclamation of Independence Day (East Timor)** - Commemorates East Timor gaining independence from Portugal in 1975. 

■ **Independence Day (Mauritania )** - Commemorates Mauritania gaining independence from France in 1960.

■ **Independence Day (Panama )** - Commemorates Panama gaining independence from the Spanish Empire in 1821.

■ **Independence Day/Flag Day (Albania )** - Commemorates Albania gaining independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1912.

■ **Republic Day (Chad )** - Commemorates Chad gaining independence from France in 1958.

Saturday, 11/30

■ **Bonifacio Day (Philippines)** - Commemorates the birth in 1863 of Andres Bonifacio, leader of the 1896 revolt against Spain.

■ **St. Andrew's Day/Feast of St. Andrew (Scotland, Catholic)** - Commemorates the life of the patron saint of Scotland.

■ **Independence Day (Barbados )** - Commemorates Barbados gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1966.

■ **Independence Day (Dominican Republic )** - Commemorates Dominican Republic gaining independence from Spain in 1821.

■ **Independence Day (Yemen )** - Commemorates Yemen gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1967.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

- - Regional, Religious, and Cultural Holidays
- ■ ■ - University of Illinois Academic Calendars
- ★ - U.S. Federal Holiday

Sunday, 12/1 - Tuesday, 12/24

■ Advent (Christian) - The four Sundays of Advent are a preparation for Christmas.

Sunday, 12/1

■ Independence Day/National Day (Central African Republic ) - Commemorates Central African Republic gaining independence from France in 1958.

■ Independence Day (Portugal ) - Commemorates Portugal gaining independence from the Spanish Empire in 1640.

■ Great Union Day (Romania) - Marks the unification of Romania and Transylvania in 1918 and the 1989 overthrow of the communist regime.

■ World AIDS Day (International) - Designated by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to increase awareness and education of AIDS. 

Monday, 12/2

■ **INSTRUCTION RESUMES (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**

■ Independence Day (United Arab Emirates ) - Commemorates United Arab Emirates gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1971.

Tuesday, 12/3

■ International Day of Persons with Disabilities (International) - Promotes the continuing integration of disabled persons into general society.

While there are several awareness months celebrated in December, the ones that often get the most attention include *HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, Universal Human Rights Month, Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month, Learn a Foreign Language Month, and Dresember.*

Friday, 12/6

■ **INSTRUCTION ENDS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIC**

■ Spanish Constitution Day (Spain) - Marks the approval of the Spanish Constitution by the Spanish People in 1978.

■ St. Nicholas Day (International) - Celebrates the life of St. Nicholas, a Christian bishop from what is now Turkey, known for his good deeds. In many European countries, families exchange gifts on this day rather than on Christmas.

■ Independence Day (Finland ) - Commemorates Finland gaining independence from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic in 1917.

Saturday, 12/7

■ **LAST DAY OF CLASSES - UIS**

■ Earthquake Victims' Memorial Day (Armenia) - Commemorates the 1988 earthquake, which killed 60,000 people and left thousands homeless.

Sunday, 12/8

■ Bodhi Day (Buddhist) - Celebrates the day that Gautama Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment.

■ Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic) - The day that Roman Catholics celebrate Mary's conception without original sin.

Monday, 12/9 - Friday, 12/13

■ **FINAL EXAMINATIONS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIC**

Monday, 12/9 - Saturday, 12/14

■ **FINALS WEEK (FALL SEMESTER) - UIS**

December 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

Monday, 12/9

■ Independence Day (Tanzania ) - Commemorates Tanzania gaining independence from the U.K in 1961.

Tuesday, 12/10

■ Human Rights Day (International) - Established in 1948 by the United Nations to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Wednesday, 12/11

■ **INSTRUCTION ENDS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**

■ Independence Day (Burkina Faso ) - Commemorates Burkina Faso gaining independence from France in 1958.

Thursday, 12/12

■ **READING DAY (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & BELONGING

■ **Jamhuri/Independence Day (Kenya 🇰🇪)** - Commemorates Kenya gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1963.

■ **Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)** - Commemorates the day the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 and instructed him to take roses to the local bishop. The church had refused Diego's request to build a shrine in the Virgin's honor because it did not believe the Virgin would appear to a simple native. Upon seeing the roses in the dead of winter, the bishop conceded.

Friday, 12/13

■ **FINAL EXAMINATIONS BEGIN (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**

■ **Luciadagen/Santa Lucia Day (Norway, Finland)** - In Scandinavia, the start of the Christmas season. Honors the third- or fourth-century saint, known as the Queen of Light. The eldest daughter of the household dresses in white, adorns her head with a wreath of burning candles, and offers coffee and sweets to the family.

Saturday, 12/14

■ **SEMESTER ENDS (FALL SEMESTER) - UIS**

Sunday, 12/15

■ **Bill of Rights Day (United States)** - Commemorates the ratification in 1791 of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

Monday, 12/16

■ **Independence Day (Bahrain 🇲🇪)** - Commemorates Bahrain gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1971.

■ **Independence Day/Victory Day (Bangladesh 🇬🇧)** - Commemorates Bangladesh gaining independence from Pakistan in 1971.

■ **Independence Day (Kazakhstan 🇰🇿)** - Commemorates Kazakhstan gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Tuesday, 12/17

■ **Independence Day/National Day (Bhutan 🇧🇹)** - Commemorates Bhutan gaining independence from India in 1907.

Wednesday, 12/18

■ **Independence Day/National Day (Qatar 🇶🇦)** - Commemorates Qatar gaining independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1878.

Thursday, 12/19

■ **FINAL EXAMINATIONS END (FALL SEMESTER) - UIUC**

Friday, 12/20

■ **INSTRUCTION BEGINS (WINTER SESSION) - UIUC**

Saturday, 12/21

■ **Yule (Pagan, Wiccan)** - Holiday that begins at sundown at the winter solstice on the shortest day of the year.

Tuesday, 12/24

■ **Independence Day (Libya 🇱🇾)** - Commemorates Libya gaining independence from the United Kingdom and France in 1951.

Wednesday, 12/25

■ **CHRISTMAS DAY (NO CLASSES) - UIUC**

■ **Christmas Day ★ (Christian)** - Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term Christmas ("mass on Christ's day") is of fairly recent origin. The secular holiday is often free of religious elements, with Santa Claus playing the pivotal role.

Wednesday, 12/25 - Thursday, 1/2

■ **Hanukkah (Jewish)** - A Jewish festival of eight nights, to commemorate how long the holy light burned. Reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by lighting candles on each day of the festival. ✨

Thursday, 12/26 - Wednesday, 1/1

■ **Kwanzaa (United States, African American)** - An annual celebration of African-American culture from December 26th through January 1st, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of Africa, including West and Southeast Africa. Kwanzaa was first celebrated in 1966.

Saturday, 12/28

■ **Independence Day/Unity Day (Slovenia 🇸🇮)** - Commemorates Slovenia gaining independence from Yugoslavia in 1990.

Sunday, 12/29

■ **Independence Day (Mongolia 🇲🇳)** - Commemorates Mongolia gaining independence from Qing China in 1911.

Tuesday, 12/31

■ **New Year's Eve (International)** - In the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Eve, also known as Old Year's Day, is the evening or the entire day of the last day of the year, December 31. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated with dancing, eating, drinking, and watching or lighting fireworks.

THANK YOU!

We understand that no calendar can be exhaustive when it comes to representing all people and celebrations. Therefore, we want this calendar to be a living document that we can continue to capture and be inclusive of holidays, events, remembrances, and celebrations of our diverse community. We welcome any feedback and/or suggestions. Please email Alejandro Gomez, Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging, at jrgomez@uillinois.edu.