Religious Holidays 2014-2015

Buddhist:

**Obon**    July 13-15, 2014
Japanese Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors. Involves lighting of bonfires, traditional meals, paper lanterns, folk dances.

**Asalha Puja Day**    July 13, 2014
Buddhist observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics at Deer Park, Banares. He taught the middle way, the noble eight-fold path and the four noble truths.

**Rohatsu (Bodhi Day)**  December 8, 2014
Buddhist celebration of the enlightenment of Buddha.

**Mahayana New Year**  January 5, 2015

**Chinese New Year**  February 19, 2015
Begins a fifteen Day Festival for Chinese people of all religions. Family reunions with thanksgiving and remembrance of departed relatives take place. Traditionally a religious ceremony honors Heaven and Earth.

**Nirvana Day**  February 15, 2015
A regional observance of the death of the Buddha.

**Magha Puja Day**  March 5, 2015
Celebration of the presentation of teaching by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.

**Therevadin New Year**  April 4, 2015

**Visakha Puja Day**  May 4, 2015
Marking of the birth, enlightenment and death (attainment of Nirvana) of Lord Buddha.

Christian:

**Assumption of Mary**  August 15, 2014

**All Saint’s Day**  November 1, 2014

**All Soul’s Day**  November 2, 2014
(Catholic Christian)

**Advent – First Sunday**  November 30, 2014

**Immaculate Conception**  December 8, 2014

**Christmas**  December 25, 2014
Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties.

**Mary Mother of God**  January 1, 2015

**Shrove Tuesday**  February 17, 2015

**Ash Wednesday – Lent begins**  March 4, 2015

**Clean Monday**  February 23, 2015

**Palm Sunday**  March 29, 2015

**Maundy Thursday**  April 2, 2015

**Good Friday**  April 3, 2015
Christian remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus and related events.

Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts and family parties.

**Easter**  April 5, 2015
The most holy of Christian Sacred days. The day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from his death by crucifixion.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  April 12, 2015

**Ascension Thursday**  May 14, 2015

**Pentecost(Whit Sunday)**  May 24, 2015
Christian observation of the day when the God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind. It is a traditional day for baptism and confirmation of new Christians.

**Trinity Sunday**  May 31, 2015

**Corpus Christi**  June 7, 2015

Orthodox Christian:

**Transfiguration**  August 6, 2014
of Our Lord on Mt. Tabor

**The Dormition**  August 15, 2014
of the Theotokos

**The Indictus**  September 1, 2014
The New Ecclesiastical Year

**Nativity of the Theotokos**  September 8, 2014
Mother of God

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  September 14, 2014

**Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple**  November 21, 2014

**Nativity of Christ the Messiah**  December 25, 2014

**The Theophany**  January 6, 2015

**Nativity of Christ**  January 7, 2015

**Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**  February 2, 2015

**Great Lent begins**  February 23, 2015

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**  March 1, 2015

**The Annunciation**  March 25, 2015

**Saturday of Lazarus**  April 4, 2015

**Palm Sunday**  April 5, 2015

**Holy Week**  April 5-11, 2015

**Great and Holy Friday**  April 10, 2015

**Orthodox Easter (Pascha)**  April 12, 2015

**Ascension**  May 21, 2015

**Pentecost**  May 31, 2015

Hindu:

**Raksha Bandhan**  August 10, 2014
Festival honoring the loving ties between brothers and sister in a family.
Krishna Janmashtami  August 17, 2014
Commemoration of the birth of Krishna – the 8th incarnation of god Vishnu

Ganesh Chaturthi  August 29, 2014
Festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence and success.

Navaratri  September 29 – Oct. 3, 2014
Festival of the divine mother honoring Durga, wife of Shiva, and seeking her blessings.

Dasera  October 4, 2014
Celebration of victory and valor. Lord Rama is remembered as winning a victory over evil.

Deepavali  October 21, 2014
Five day festival of lights marking the end of the Hindu year.

Diwali  October 23, 2014
Festival of lights symbolizing the human urge to move toward the light.

Vasant Panchami  January 24, 2015
Celebration dedicated to Saraswati, goddess of learning.

Maha Shivaratri  March 17, 2015
Festival in honor of Lord Shiva and his marriage to Goddess Parvati.

Holi  March 6, 2015
Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. Observed in a colorful and boisterous manner.

Hindu New Year  March 21, 2015

Ramayana  March 21-28, 2015
Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem, The Ramayana.

Hanuman Jayanti  April 4, 2015
Celebration of Hanuman who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

Jewish:

Tisha B’Av  August 5, 2014
Day of fasting in remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in 586 b.c.e. and 70 c.e.

Rosh HaShanah*  September 25-26, 2014
Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer and penitence.

Yom Kippur  October 4, 2014
Jewish Day of Atonement. This holiest day of the Jewish year is observed with strict fasting and ceremonial repentance.

Sukkot*  October 9-10, 2014
Feast of Tabernacles which celebrates the harvest and the protection of the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness dwelling in tents.

Shemini Atzeret  October 16, 2014
Completion of the annual cycle of reading of the Torah.

Simhat Torah  October 17, 2014
Day to celebrate the reading of the Law.

Hanukkah  December 17-24, 2014
Festival of Lights. Commemorates the Maccabean recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165-164 b.c.e.

Tu Bishvat  February 4, 2015
Celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. Also known as “New Year for Trees”.

Tu BiShvat  March 5, 2015
Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide.

Pesach*  April 4-5, 2015
Jewish 8 day pilgrimage festival celebrating the Exodus from slavery to freedom. Also known as Passover.

Yom HaShoa  April 16, 2015
Jewish Holocaust Day. Remembering the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in 1933-45.

Lag B’Omer  May 7, 2015
Observation of the counting of the day – the link – between Pasach and Shavout.

Shavuot*  May 24-25, 2015
Celebration of Moses’ descent from Mt. Sinai with the ten commandments.

BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition

*All Jewish holidays begin at sundown the night before the date listed. Sukkot and Passover are 8 day festivals. Although the first two days and the last two days have the strictest holiday observance (i.e. no driving, no writing, etc.), all 8 days have certain restrictions and should be considered according to the levels of stated observance by the diverse Jewish religious communities at Cornell. Holidays marked with an asterisk are observed for one day only by Reform Jews. Holidays noted in bold are days on which no work is permitted and absences from school or work should be excused.

Muslim:

Laylat al Qadr*  July 14, 2014
This is the ‘Night of Destiny’ or ‘Night of Power’. It marks the revelation of the Qur’an to the Prophet Muhammad.

Eid al-Fitr*  July 29, 2014
Marks the end of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to God.

Waqfat `Arafat*  October 3, 2014
This is when Hajj pilgrims gather at the Plain of `Arafa

Eid al Adha*  October 4, 2014
Festival of Sacrifice. The day after Arafat, marks the end of the Hajj.

Al-Hijra* – New Year  October 25, 2014
The date of the Emigration of Muhammad and his followers to Medina in 622 c.e. Islamic New Year.

`Ashura*  November 2, 2014
There is an optional fast this day. The Shi’a observance is based on the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad’s grandson, Husayn, martyred on this day in 683/684 c.e. at the battle off Karbala. Sunni observance is related to numerous Biblical and Qur’anic events.
Mawlid an-Nabi*  January 3, 2015
Commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Not universally observed.

Laylat al-Mi`raj  May 13, 2015
Commemorates Muhammad’s night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.

Laylat al-Bara`ah  June 1, 2015
Night of Forgiveness (also known as Shab-e baraat). A night of prayer to God for forgiveness for oneself and for the dead. Preparation for Ramadan through intense prayer begins on this date.

Ramadan Begins*  June 18, 2015
9th month on Islamic calendar, devoted fasting from first light to sunset. In this month, the Prophet Muhammad’s reception of the divine revelation of the Qur’an, is commemorated. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. The start date is set either by following Saudi practice of by moonsighting.

*BOLD titles are primary holy days of tradition
*Actual sightings of the crescent moon may mean these dates are one day earlier or one day later.