

New College of Florida

Religious Holidays & Secular Observances

September 2021 – December 2021

Fall 2021 Semester	Holiday	Description	NCF Closed
2021			
6-Sep	Labor Day	A celebration of the achievements and contributions of workers.	Closed
6-8 Sep	Rosh Hashanah	A celebration of the Jewish New Year (Evening of the 6 th to the evening of the 8 th), which begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in Yom Kippur.	
15-16-Sep	Yom Kippur	The Jewish Day of Atonement (Evening of the 15 th to evening the 16 th). During Yom Kippur, there are a number of religious services. It is a major time for repentance and focusing on one's relationship with the divine. Many observe Yom Kippur with a 25-hour fast.	
20-27 Sep	Sukkot	Sukkot is a pilgrimage festival (Evening of the 20 th to the evening of the 27 th). The festival is named after the booths or huts built as part of this celebration, which represent the huts that the Israelites dwelled in during their 40 years of wondering in the desert after escaping from slavery in Egypt.	
11-Oct	Indigenous Peoples' Day	Celebrates and honors the histories and cultures of Native peoples. It recognizes Native peoples as the first inhabitants of the Americas, which includes the United States. It calls on all of us to recognize the contemporary contributions and ongoing struggle of indigenous peoples for justice.	
15-Oct	Dussehra (also known as Dasera, Dassera, or Vijaydashtami)	One of the major Hindu festivals, Dussehra commemorates the victory of good over evil as depicted in events described in the great epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The festive "nine nights" leading to Dussehra are known as Navaratri. Significant regional variations of the holiday honor the goddesses Durga and Saraswati.	

18-19 Oct	Mawlid al-Nabi	This holiday commemorates birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the founding prophet of Islam. It is celebrated by many Muslims during the month of Rabiulawal, the third month of the Islamic calendar (Evening of the 18 to the evening of the 19 th). During this holiday, Muslims will pray, listen to lectures, recite verses of the Quran, and share communal meals.	
31 Oct - 1 Nov	Samhain	A Gaelic and Wiccan festival celebrating the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the winter months. Samhain is also observed by Celtic pagans (neopagans). October 31 st evolved into All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, which was adopted into 19 th century America as a result of Irish immigrants bringing their cultural practices.	
1-Nov	All Saints Day	Also known as All Hallows' Day, or Hallowmas, All Saints Day is a Christian holiday commemorating all saints in Christian history. In Catholic tradition, the holiday honors those who have passed on to heaven. It is followed on November 2 nd by All Souls Day.	
1-2-Nov	Day of the Dead ("Día de los Muertos")	Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a celebration in Latin America that reunites two Catholic festivities, All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls Day (Nov. 2). It is mostly associated with Mexican culture as a syncretism between Catholic beliefs brought by the Spanish Conquistadors and Aztec traditions. While in other Latin American countries and in Spain both days are religious, what they all have in common is the honoring of family and friends who have passed.	
4 -9 -Nov	Diwali (also Divali, Dipavali)	A widely celebrated five-day festival of lights marking the triumph of light over darkness. Diwali also marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year. Observances often invoke Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity.	
11-Nov	Veteran's Day	This day honors American veterans of all wars. It evolved from a national holiday called "Armistice Day," which was a day dedicated to world peace that honored veterans from World War 1.	Closed
20-Nov	Transgender Day of Remembrance	A commemorative day that honors the memory of transgender individuals whose lives were lost due to anti-transgender violence. It is preceded by Transgender Awareness Week, which aims to raise awareness of the transgender community.	

25-Nov	Thanksgiving	A holiday celebrating the harvest and blessings of the previous year.	Closed
	National Day of Mourning	Originally organized by the United American Indians of New England (UAIINE) in 1970, this observance honors Native ancestors and their continued struggle to thrive.	Closed
26-Nov	Native American Heritage Day	This holiday honors Native culture, traditions, and history. 184 of 574 federally recognized tribes formally supported this holiday when it was created.	Closed
29-Nov - 6-Dec	Hanukkah	The Jewish festival of lights (Evening of the 29 th to evening of the 6 th). The Hebrew word Chanukah means “dedication,” and the holiday celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was reclaimed from Syrian Greeks in 164 BCE. The lighting of the hanukkah, or menorah, an eight-branched candelabrum is a central part of this holiday.	
25-Dec	Christmas	An annual celebration that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ.	Closed
26 Dec - 1 Jan	Kwanzaa	An African American and Pan-African holiday. Kwanzaa celebrates family, culture and community. During the seven days of Kwanzaa, families and communities organize activities each day that highlight a different principle of the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles): Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).	