A Faculty-Wide Request: Fall 2018 Jewish Holidays
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The first two days of Fall quarter (Sept. 10-11, 2018) will fall on the Jewish high holiday of Rosh Hashanah. As such, some of our colleagues and students will miss the first days of classes (and, due to travel associated with the holiday, some will also miss additional days that week).

Towards more inclusive outcomes, we hope you might consider the following strategies for the first day of classes this Fall:

1) Please be generous in accommodating students:
   - Because we are talking about the 1st day of class, a student might not reach out to you in advance to ask for accommodation; please accommodate them anyway (even if you normally hold students accountable for reaching out to you in advance).
   - To alleviate your students’ concerns about this sooner rather than later, please contact your class/es well in advance of day 1 to let them know that you are aware that classes start on a Jewish holiday, that you support religious accommodations, and that students will not be penalized for missing the 1st day.
   - Furthermore, if you adopt any of the recommended strategies in the next column for the 1st day of classes, please let your students know the details in advance of the 1st day (on Canvas or by email) so that those who do plan to miss the 1st day can put their minds at ease.

2) While 1st-day activities (like reading through a syllabus) work in our favor (i.e. it will be easy for students who miss the 1st day to read the syllabus on their own), other “1st-day activities” are very hard to make up and can leave students who miss out feeling disconnected for the remainder of the quarter.
   - In the spirit of inclusivity, we ask you to please consider deferring class-wide co-construction of ground-rules, class-wide ice-breakers, class-wide inclusivity exercises, and other “1st-day activities” designed to create a welcoming and inclusive classroom space until after the Jewish holiday so that all students can be included.

3) As part of a “flipped classroom” strategy or otherwise, please consider recording all or part your 1st day of class, and posting the video as well as any other materials from the 1st day (e.g. PPTs, handouts, etc.) on Canvas so that students can easily catch up. (If you treat this as a flipped classroom format, then students who miss the in-class portion will admittedly miss important conversations, but at least they will be able to quickly catch up on other key elements). You can contact the Office of Teaching and Learning for ideas or support with this approach.

While we strongly encourage a Religious Accommodation Policy on your syllabus, this Fall that might not be enough! Please find some more ideas here...

As we work together to build a more inclusive DU, please also:
- adopt these or other relevant suggestions in your classroom(s) for other religious holidays.
- consult an interfaith calendar throughout the year; to transform your everyday online calendar into an interfaith calendar, visit www.du.edu/ahss/cjs/interfaith.
- visit the “Inclusive Teaching Practices Canvas Portal” by Dr. Valentina Iturbe-LaGrave (Associate Director for Inclusive Teaching Practices): https://canvas.du.edu/courses/64014