Tufts UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

E-NEWS 5.12.21

A Cambridge town walk, photo by Azmera Hammouri-Davis

A Reflection from our Africana Spirituality Advisor

Peace and blessings,

The month of May welcomes us with a myriad of reasons for celebration -- Mother's Day, Cinco de Mayo and

Subscribe to our email list.

and remembrance. How do we reckon with such happiness and sadness at once? How do we heal to begin to be made whole? My day of birth also happens to fall on the day of George Floyd's death, which makes it particularly somber. In Africana Spirituality, birth is a crucial time in which an old cycle ends so that a new one may be born.

In my tradition, our capaciousness to grapple with life's complexities and shifting rhythms are honored, processed and expanded through ritual ceremony. Ritual looks differently across indigenous African traditions, wherein divine forces present themselves to assist us in adjusting to changes necessary for our growth and evolution. An unwavering component, however, involves each ritual taking place communally, rather than solitarily. The coming and going, the ebbing and flowing, the reaping and sowing are given witness.This public affirmation not only acknowledges the changes on the horizon but it also affirms and validates one's existence in relation to others.

As we end one cycle of the academic year, what are we preparing to enter into anew? I invite you to take a moment to reflect on what your cycle, rhythm, academic year ending means for you. What might you let go of to make more room for into the summer? How will you allow yourself the space to lean into all of the work you have offered this year?

To those graduating I pray you may bask in all the glory that this public affirmation and ritual ceremony brings. And to all, I wish you renewal, replenishment and light as you finish finals and welcome in the summer.

In gratitude and asé,

Azmera Hammouri-Davis
Africana Spirituality Advisor

Baccalaureate Ceremony 2021
Saturday, May 22, 2:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m ET

The University Chaplaincy has produced a pre-recorded video to honor the Class of 2021 with new and familiar components of the traditional Baccalaureate Ceremony. The video will include:

- Words of Welcome from University Chaplain Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger

Subscribe to our email list.

- The Wendell Phillips Address by Atrey Bhargava, A21
- An instrumental music performance
- President Anthony P. Monaco's address to the Class of 2021
- Multifaith words of blessing and sending from Tufts University chaplains

The video will go live on Saturday, May 22 at 2pm ET on the Commencement webpage. Please join us for this celebration of the Class of 2021!

Experience the Ceremony on May 22

Religious and Philosophical Life Programs

Regular weekly programming has finished for the 2020-2021 academic year. Chaplains are still available to the entire Tufts community throughout the summer. If you have an idea for how the Tufts University Chaplaincy can better serve you, please connect with program manager Nora Bond.

Apply to be an Interfaith Ambassador with the University Chaplaincy
Applications due May 15

In Fall 2021, the Tufts University Chaplaincy will pilot a new Interfaith Ambassador Program for undergraduate students. This team of Interfaith Ambassadors, drawn from Tufts' diverse religious, spiritual and philosophical communities, will be equipped to understand and engage religious diversity on campus, in their own communities, and in the world. Ambassadors will actively foster interfaith community, which will require a willingness to seek places of both common and contested ground for the sake of learning, cooperation and action. These kinds of questions will be engaged: What does it mean to live democratically with religious diversity? What are the roles of religious communities

religious communities and individuals work together for the common good? Ambassadors will have the opportunity to learn more about their own beliefs; to explore what interfaith engagement means within their traditions; and to deepen their understandings of civic engagement, justice, and peace in a pluralistic world. We encourage all Tufts undergraduates to apply. Please email Univeristy Chaplain Reverend Elyse Nelson Winger with any questions. You can find the job application on Handshake.

Apply to be an Interfaith Ambassador

"See No Stranger" at Tufts: A Reading and Learning Opportunity for Faculty and Staff
Sign up by May 26

"Solidarity is only possible if we are brave enough to reckon with the past and how the past shapes the present. In the United States, this means confronting the reality of white supremacy." --Valarie Kaur, See No Stranger, *page 148*

Join the University Chaplaincy for a summer reading group of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, by civil rights activist, lawyer, filmmaker, and educator Valarie Kaur. Revolutionary love is a "radical and joyful practice to heal ourselves and transform the world around us." *See No Stranger* details personal and social transformation through loving self, loving opponents, and loving others, and is woven throughout with the author's own personal stories of activism, reckoning, and growth. We welcome you to join us if you are seeking deeper ways of engaging social transformation. The group will meet every other Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Zoom from June 16 – July 14 for discussion and reflection on the major themes of the text. In the interceding weeks, you will have the option to connect with an assigned partner to share your responses to the stories and practices in the book. Please sign up by May 26 to receive a copy of the book. Please email the University Chaplaincy with any questions.

Sign Up For See No Stranger

During a Year of Separation, an Interfaith Program Creates Connection

Even before the pandemic forced us apart, Tufts Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper noticed that loneliness was widespread. So she devised a way to bring people together

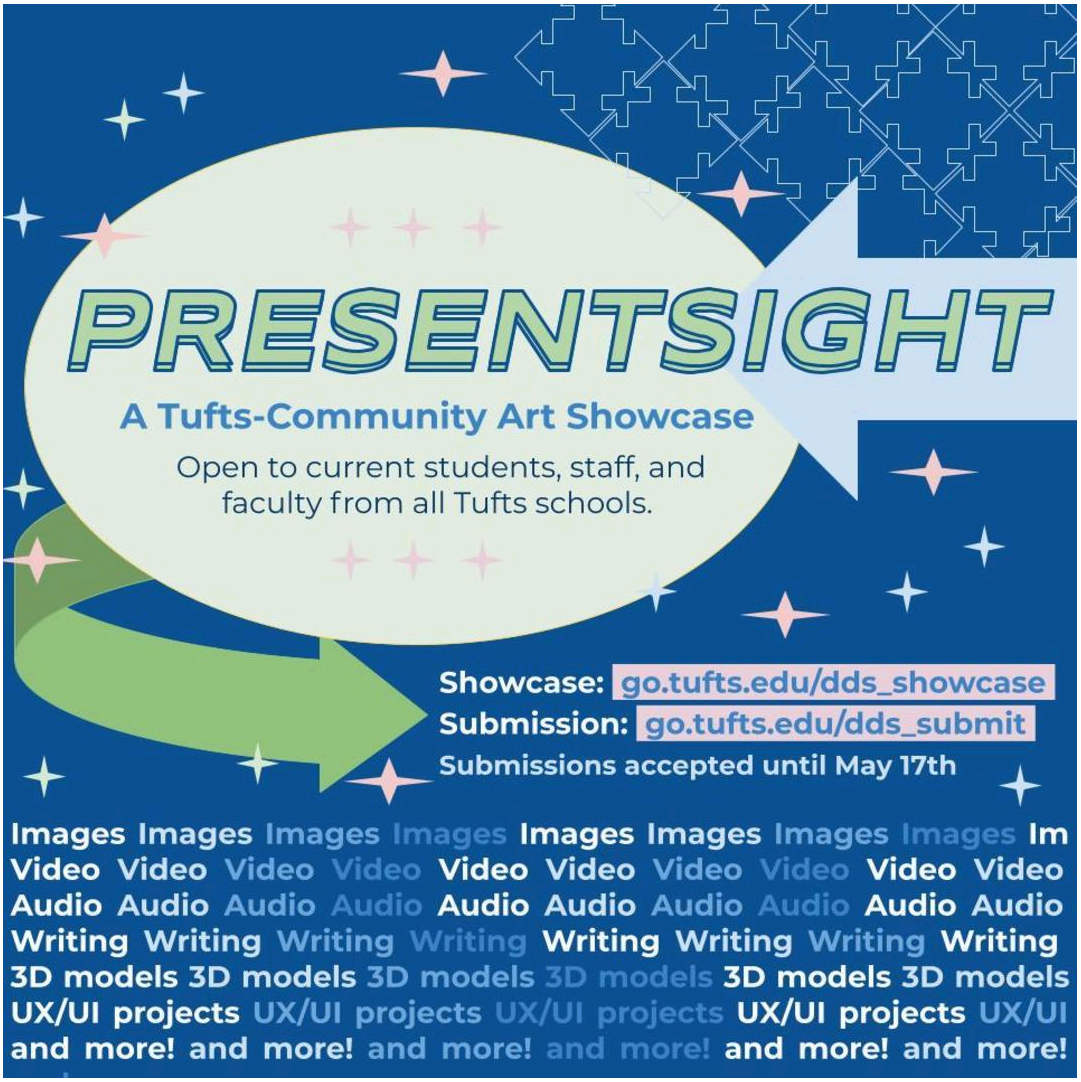
Sara Barkouli, A22, and Curry Brinson, A22. Photographer Alonso Nichols brought them together virtually in this composite image.

TuftsNow on Be-Friend: The Interfaith Friendship Project

TuftsNow featured the interfaith program Be-Friend, which began in the 2019-2020 academic year, and continues today through the work of Catholic Chaplain Lynn Cooper. The program brings people together for intentional sharing, creative connection, and healthy relationship building. Many of this semester's participants said this was particularly helpful in a year marked by loneliness and isolation. You can read the full article and some participants' reflections here. Be-Friend will resume again in Fall 2021, and we welcome you to sign up to participate then.

Read the TuftsNow Article

Partner Programs



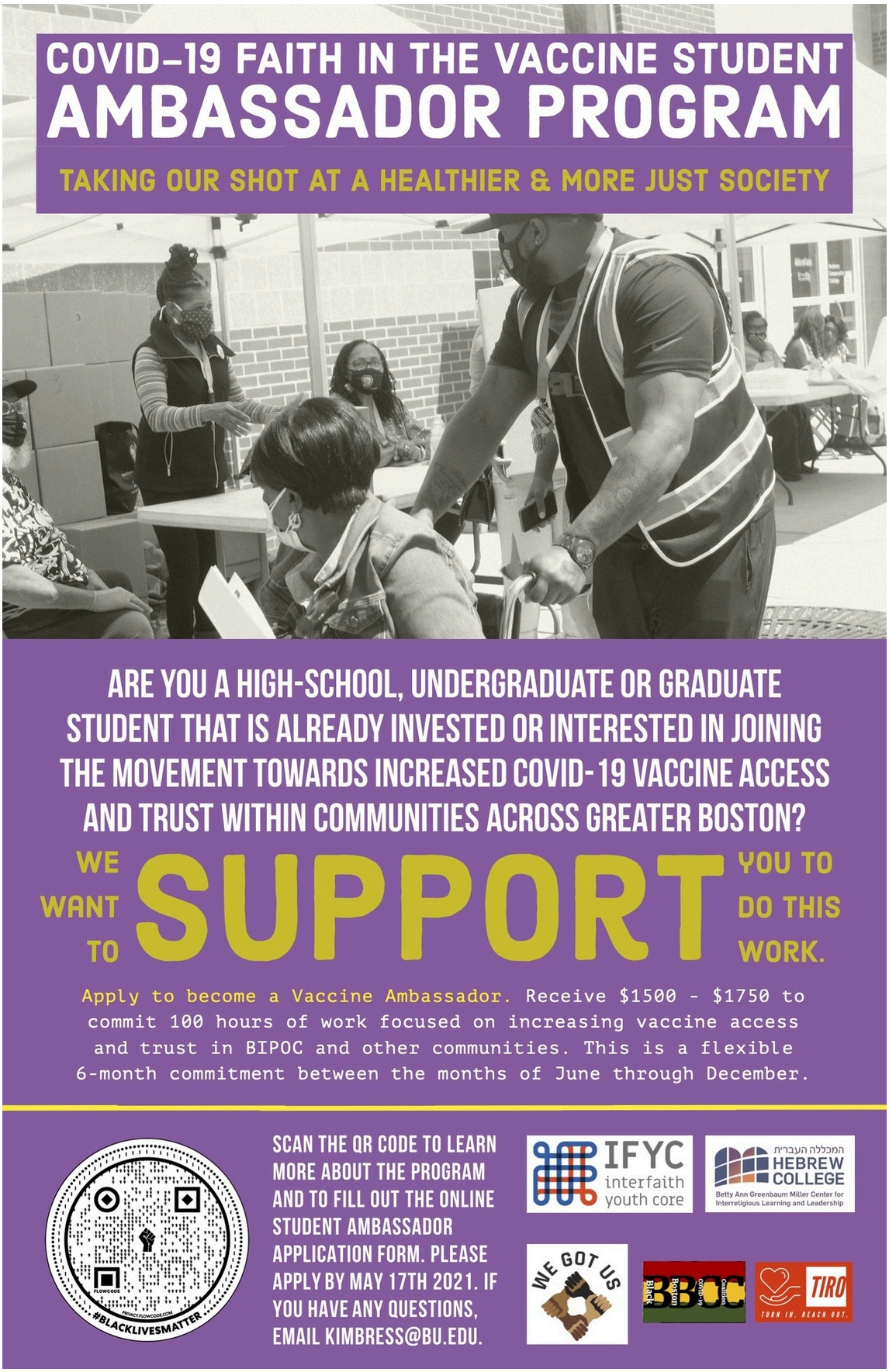
Presentsight: A Tufts-Community Art Showcase
Submissions due by May 17

The Digital Design Studio at Tisch Library is hosting our annual online showcase for all Tufts community members to show and see creative work. Entitled *Presentsight*, it is a collection of artwork made during the pandemic. This showcase suggests that we don't have to wait for hindsight to be 20/20 to explore what we saw and understood in 2020. Creations of the present reflect the moment they were made, intentionally or unintentionally, and do so differently — and not inherently less clearly — than those of the future looking back. Students, staff, and faculty from all Tufts schools can submit images, video, audio, writing, 3D models, UX/UI projects and more. Submissions will be accepted through May 17 and will be displayed on our showcase site on a rolling basis; you can submit materials here. Multiple submissions per person are allowed. Artwork finished in late 2019 and after will be accepted.

Tufts Mental Health Reps with Counseling and Mental Health Services
Apply by June 8

The Mental Health Reps are a new group that will act as a liaison between Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS) and the student body. The Mental Health Reps will work directly with CMHS staff to help advocate for mental health support, reduce stigma, and promote mental and emotional health. They will receive training from CMHS staff and other public health professionals about mental health promotion, and will have the opportunity to create programming to directly help students at Tufts. The Mental Health Reps are not a peer counseling group. The Mental Health Reps will focus on outreach and programming, and be provided professional development and leadership opportunities; they will receive a stipend. Please email Erica Schonman, Mental Health Promotion Specialist, for more information and apply here.

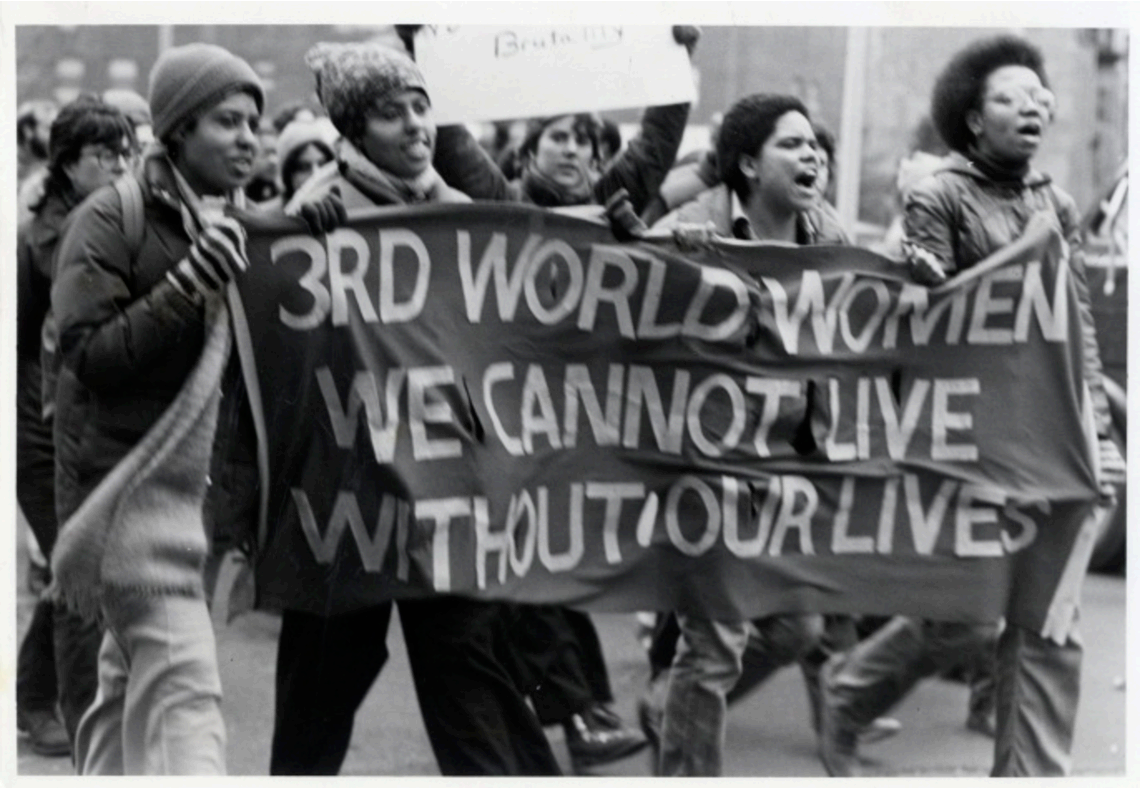
Resources, Scholarships, and Opportunities



Faith in the Vaccine Ambassador Program
Apply by May 15

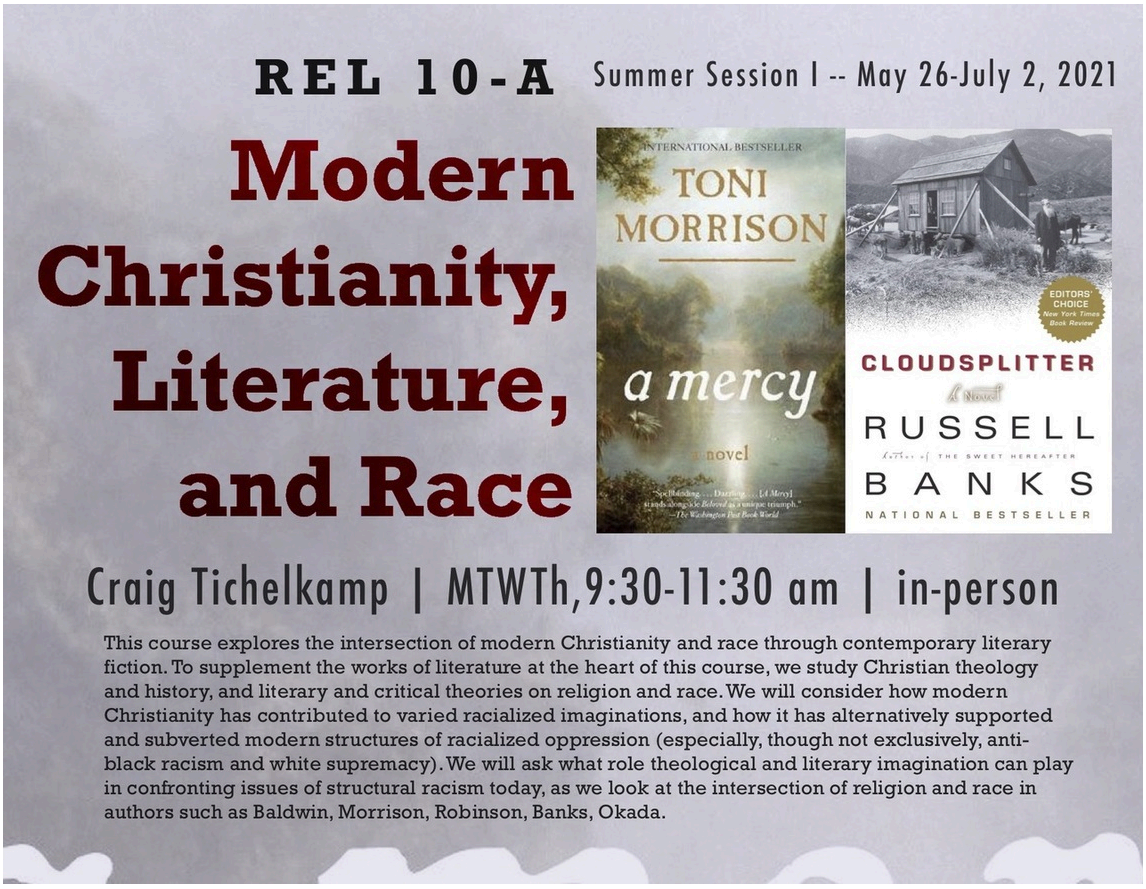
The Miller Center of Hebrew College is launching a summer-fall initiative in Greater Boston as part of a national program spearheaded by the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC).The Faith in the Vaccine Ambassador Program provides

Covid-19 vaccine options and supporting vaccination efforts throughout the city. This timely public health program also includes training and mentorship from both IFYC and Hebrew College. All ambassadors will receive stipends for their work, which can be carried out anytime June - December 2021. You can find more information and apply here.



Community Curator Fellow with The History Project
Apply by May 14

With the support of Mass Humanities' Digital Capacity Grant, The History Project will hire a Community Curator Fellow as a consultant for The History Project's efforts to document and share Boston's Black LGBTQ history. Due to Covid-19, the Fellow can work entirely remotely if necessary. With a stipend of $5,000 for a flexible project term of June 1, 2021 to September 1, 2021, the Fellow will be tasked with overseeing the project in collaboration with the Executive Director. Throughout the project term, the Fellow will host virtual community focus groups, solicit and curate submissions to a crowdsourced timeline, and upload resources and archival assets. Please find more information about requirements and the application on the History Project website.



Modern Christianity, Literature, and Race
Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. ET, Summer Session I

This course explores the intersection of modern Christianity and race through contemporary literary fiction. To supplement the works of literature at the heart of this course, we study Christian theology and history, and literary and critical theories on religion and race. We will consider how modern Christianity has contributed to varied racialized imaginations, and how it has alternatively supported and subverted modern structures of racialized oppression (especially, though not exclusively, anti-Black racism and white supremacy). We will ask what role theological and literary imagination can play in confronting issues of structural racism today, as we look at the intersection of religion and race in authors such as Baldwin, Morrison, Robinson, Banks, Okada. Find more information and register on Tufts SIS.

This course explores Judaism's encounter with modernity. It examines debates over the meaning of Judaism in the modern world among eastern and western European Jews, as well as among more recent voices in America and Israel. A central question that informs these debates is: what is Judaism's relation to the modern world? Is Judaism a religion, a nationality, an ethnicity, or a combination of these? As such, it also reflects on the category of religion and its political, social, and ethical implications. The course focuses on various visions of Jewish identity that emerge from the enlightenment and political emancipation, changing conceptions of revelation and divine law, the re-valuation of Jewish mysticism, responses to European nationalism, antisemitism, the challenge of pluralism in America, the Holocaust, and the creation of the State of Israel. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement.

Judaism and Modernity
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. ET, Fall 2021

This course explores Judaism's encounter with modernity. It examines debates over the meaning of Judaism in the modern world among eastern and western European Jews, as well as among more recent voices in America and Israel. A central question that informs these debates is: what is Judaism's relation to the modern world? Is Judaism a religion, a nationality, an ethnicity, or a combination of these? As such, it also reflects on the category of religion and its political, social, and ethical implications. The course focuses on various visions of Jewish identity that emerge from the enlightenment and political emancipation, changing conceptions of revelation and divine law, the re-valuation of Jewish mysticism, responses to European nationalism, antisemitism, the challenge of pluralism in America, the Holocaust, and the creation of the State of Israel. This course counts toward the Humanities distribution requirement. Find more information and register on Tufts SIS.

Upcoming Religious Celebrations and Observances

These events are drawn from the multifaith calendar maintained by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at Harvard Divinity School. To see more upcoming religious holidays and festivals, please follow the link to the Harvard Divinity School calendar.

Ramadan
Ongoing through Wednesday, 5.12.2021
Tradition: Islam
The Holy Month of Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims who are physically able do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset in honor of the first revelations to the Prophet Muhammad. The evening meal is celebrated with family.

Eid al-Fitr ('Id al-Fitr)
Wednesday, 5.12 – Thursday, 5.13.2021
Tradition: Islam

Adha), this day celebrates the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. It comes on the first day of the next lunar month, Shawal.

Ascension of Jesus
Thursday, 5.13.2021
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
The celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven and enthronement as universal sovereign. It comes 40 days after Easter. The date observed by Protestants and Roman Catholics is often different from the date observed by Orthodox Christians.

Shavuot
Sunday, 5.16 – Tuesday, 5.18.2021
Tradition: Judaism
(Or "Feast of Weeks.") Shavuot marks the conclusion of the seven weeks following Pesach (Passover). It is a celebration of the harvest of first fruits and commemorates the giving of the Torah and Commandments at Mount Sinai. Begins at sundown.

Declaration of the Bab
Saturday, 5.22.2021
Tradition: Baha'i
Commemorates the day in 1844 on which he announced his identity as the "Bab" ("Gate"), the herald of the new age. Begins at sundown.

Pentecost
Sunday, 5.23.2021
Tradition: Christianity-Protestant, Christianity-Roman Catholic
(Or Whitsunday.) The commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus following his ascension, Pentecost is considered the "birthday" of the Christian church (Acts 2:1-11). It comes 50 days after Easter (Pascha, Orthodox Easter). Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians often observe Pentecost on a different date from Orthodox Christians.

Wesak (Buddha Day)
Wednesday, 5.26.2021
Tradition: Buddhism
The commemoration of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana, celebrated on the day of the full moon of the sixth lunar month in Southeast Asian cultures; in Tibetan culture, Wesak commemorates only the the enlightenment and parinirvana. The dates of this celebration vary significantly among Buddhist cultures and communities.

Support the University Chaplaincy

Supporting dynamic programs at Tufts University in religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life is easy and vital to our work. To donate, please click on the button below. Thank you for your generosity.

Give Today

ABOUT US

The University Chaplaincy is a dynamic hub supporting religious, spiritual, ethical, and cultural life for all members of the Tufts community. We provide pastoral care, support religious and philosophical communities, educate about spiritual and ethical issues in society and the world, and promote multifaith engagement.

Tufts University Chaplaincy | Goddard Chapel, 3 The Green | Medford, MA 02155 US
chaplaincy.tufts.edu | chaplaincy@tufts.edu | **617.627.3427**

Subscribe to our email list.

emma

Subscribe to our email list.