

Course Syllabus

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Syllabus for Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics, Spring, 2021. HAT 3700, LIN 4930, AFA 3930, LAS 3930

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
University of Florida, Gainesville

Class times: M,W,F | Period 6 (12:50 PM -1:40 PM)

Class location: [CBD 0210](#)

Associate professor: Ben Hebblethwaite

Office location: 363 Dauer Hall

Office hours: 10:30 am - 12:30 am Fridays

Contact information: hebble@ufl.edu

Modality

This course is taught in person. Office hours are in-person. Zoom is not used.

Short & long course descriptions:

LIN4930 - Special Topics in Linguistics: Int Haitian Creole Linguistics (Class #30255)

Class examines the major sub-fields of linguistics by means of the Haitian Creole language. Haitian Creole syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics and lexicon are introduced in addition to sociolinguistics, dialectology, language planning, bilingualism and language contact. (H and N OR H and D) (WR 2,000) [*Also available as graduate credit at hebble@ufl.edu*]

LIN4930 - Special Topics in Linguistics: Int Haitian Creole Linguistics (Class #30255)

Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics seeks to advance your knowledge about linguistics by means of a close study of Haitian Creole. The study of Haitian Creole includes comparison with other Creole languages in addition to the European and African source languages.

The class introduces and illustrates methods of linguistic analysis on Haitian Creole. Focusing on Valdman's (2015) book *Haitian Creole: Structure, Variation, Status, Origin*, our examination of Haitian Creole includes modules dedicated to phonology, variation in the form of its words, the origins and structure of the lexicon, basic syntactic structure, the verbal system, the structure of noun phrases, complex sentences, sociolinguistic variation in Haitian Creole, language planning and, finally, the genesis and development of Haitian Creole.

Students are introduced to (or review) the major disciplines of linguistics including syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, lexicology, creolistics, sociolinguistics, language variation, and language planning. Other areas explored in the class include dialectology, bilingualism, language contact, multilingualism, and code-switching.

The class makes use of multimedia resources like video clips, songs and lyrics, and recordings from YouTube to illustrate and analyze Haitian Creole language. The class format involves lectures, slide-presentations, audio and film segments, student presentations, pair learning in small groups, as well as classroom discussions. The class will have no more than 7

quizzes, one midterm, one final, and two 1,000-word essays.

Valdman's (2015) book provides the background knowledge needed to follow lectures, participate in discussions, and to prepare for and perform well on the presentations, quizzes, examinations, and the papers. (H and N OR H and D) (WR 2,000)

Grade distribution. Please see Canvas for your grade.

(1) 10 % = 1 Class presentation

10 minutes long + 5 minutes for questions. Graded for clarity; organization; preparation; effectiveness of your communication (are you connecting with us? are you capturing our interest?); insights of your critiques and analyses. PowerPoint or similar presentation is required. Students may present on any topic that pertains to Haitian Creole language and linguistics.

(2) 30 % = 2 papers, 1,000 words each (essay topic and paper) for UF Writing Requirement. Your sources must include the class readings plus at least 3 additional sources per essay. To be eligible for additional points, the final submission must show changes and additions via "**Track Changes**" in MS Word.

(3) 10 % = No more than 6 quizzes (announced and unannounced).

(4) 10% = Homework = solve 4 problems (submitted via Canvas).

Write a short analysis about the question that is assigned (150 words minimum, 200 words maximum). Times New Roman, .12 pt. font. Your paper should be double-spaced. You are graded on your insight into the topic as reflected in your attention to the assigned readings, your unique interpretations and arguments, and your ability to discuss the content with an objective, critical and scholarly voice. You are also graded on your writing style and your use of grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

(5) 10 % = Participation; attendance; punctuality, courtesy, attentiveness; respect for the learning environment; etiquette; insights. Students will lose .5% from their final grade for every unexcused absence; students will lose .5% from their final grade for every late arrival.

(6) 30% = 2 Exams

Midterm = 15% and Final = 15%

Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67

86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> (Links to an external site.)

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students will lose .5% from their final grade for every unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class.

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>), there will be no make-up option for missed exams, quizzes or late assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes. Always try to communicate with your instructors.
- **Unexcused Absence Policy:** Student will lose .5% from their final grade for each unexcused absence.

- Late Policy: A class roll will be available for students to sign at the front of the class before class begins. If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the "late roll sheet" after class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Students will lose 0.5% from their final grade each time they arrive late.

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

Class attendance is expected. Students can have **3 unexcused absences**, thereafter there is a penalty of .5% per absence from the final grade.

Late work is penalized at a reduction of **10%**. After **7 days, no late work can be submitted**. Late work can be submitted with an excused absence note, including letterhead, email and phone number.

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation.

Students who can demonstrate that they were unable to submit an assignment by the deadline due to an excused absence and who can provide appropriate documentation for the absence will be given a reasonable period of time to make up the late work.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ ([Links to an external site.](#))) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

General Education Requirements Satisfied by *Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics*

1. (H) This class satisfies the description of the Humanities (H) classification by providing a foundation in the theory, methods and history used in the discipline of linguistics. The class reviews the key themes, principles and terminology of generative linguistics.
2. (N) This class satisfies the description of the International (N) classification because it focuses on the language of a country that is outside the United States. The class will

help students understand how historical, geographic and socioeconomic issues impact the formation of Haitian Creole.

3. (D) This class satisfies the description of the Diversity (D) classification by examining linguistic issues that relate to the North American Haitian Diaspora. About 1/4 of the class deals with linguistic values, attitudes and norms among Haitian immigrants in the United States (see the Zéphir and Hebblethwaite readings). The social roles and status of Haitian immigrants in the U.S. and how they impact language use are examined. This is especially related to language contact and code-switching. This class helps students understand the linguistic constraints faced by Haitians-Americans.

Important UF webpages:

Library Homepage Course Reserves Ask-A-Librarian assistance)

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.) (for all library services and collections) <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.) (for hard copy and/or electronic reserves) <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/> (direct email or online chat for IR @ UF <http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg> (Links to an external site.) (to access the UF digital

Institutional Repository)

Library Tools and Mobile Apps <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools/> (Links to an external site.) (smart phone apps, RSS feeds, and much more)

Subject

Guides/Specialists <http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx> (Links to an external site.) (by discipline and/or course)

UF's policy for assigning grades: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Bibliography of additional and optional readings

BOOK:

1. Holm, John. 2000. An introduction to pidgins and creoles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Order at this link on amazon.com)

ARTICLES:

1. Dejean, Yves. 1993. An overview of the language situation in Haiti. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 102.73-83.
2. Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2012. French and underdevelopment, Haitian Creole and development: Educational language policy problems and solutions in Haiti. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, 27.2.255-305.
3. Valdman, Albert. 1988. Diglossia and language conflict in Haiti. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 71.67-80.

4. Takahashi, Shoichi and Martina Gracanin-Yukse. 2008. Morphosyntax of Movement Dependencies in Haitian Creole. *Syntax* 11:2, August 2008, 223–250.
5. Valdman, Albert. 1984. The Linguistic Situation of Haiti. In *Haiti – Today and Tomorrow*. Edited by Foster, Charles and Albert Valdman, 77-100. New York: University Press of America.
6. Fleischmann, Ulrich. 1984. Language, Literacy, and Underdevelopment. In *Haiti – Today and Tomorrow*. Edited by Foster, Charles and Albert Valdman, 101-117. New York: University Press of America.
7. De Regt, Jacomina. 1984. Basic Education in Haiti. In *Haiti – Today and Tomorrow*. Edited by Foster, Charles and Albert Valdman, 119-139. New York: University Press of America.
8. Howe, Kate. 1993. Haitian Creole as the official language in education and media. In *Atlantic meets Pacific: A Global View of Pidginization and Creolization*, 291- 298. Ed. by Byrne, Francis and John Holm. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
9. DeGraff, Michel. 2003. Against Creole Exceptionalism. In *Language*, 79.2.391- 410.
10. Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2009. Scrabble as a Tool for Haitian Creole Literacy: Sociolinguistic and Orthographic Foundations. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, 24.2.275-305.
11. Lefebvre, Claire. 1998. Functional category lexical entries involved in nominal structure. In *Creole Genesis and The Acquisition of Grammar*, 78-89. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
12. Degraff, Michel. 1997. Verb syntax in, and beyond, creolization. In *The New Comparative Syntax*, 64-94. New York: Longman.
13. Johnson, Bruce Lee and Gérard Alphonse-Férère. 1972. Haitian Creole : Surface phonology. Gimson, A.C. and J.C. Wells. *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 2.2.35-39.
14. Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2010. Adverb code-switching among Miami’s Haitian Creole-English second generation. *Bilingualism : Language and Cognition*, 1-20.
15. Zephir, Flore. 1997. Haitian Creole Language and Bilingual Education in the United States: Problem, Right or Resource? *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* 18.3.223-237.
16. Degraff, Michel. 2007. Haitian Creole. In *Comparative Creole Syntax*, 101-126. Edited by Holm, John and Peter Patrick. Battlebridge Press.
17. Nikiema, Emmanuel and Parth Bhatt. 2003. Two types of R deletion in Haitian Creole. In *Phonology and Morphology of Creole Languages*, 43-70. Edited by Plag, Ingo. Tübingen: Niemeyer.

18. Brousseau, Anne-Marie. 2003. The accentual system of Haitian Creole: The role of transfer and markedness values. In *Phonology and Morphology of Creole Languages*, 123-146. Edited by Plag, Ingo. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
19. Klein, Thomas B. 2003. Syllable structure and lexical markedness in creole morphophonology: Determiner allomorphy in Haitian and elsewhere. In *Phonology and Morphology of Creole Languages*, 209-230. Edited by Plag, Ingo. Tübingen: Niemeyer.
20. Valdman, Albert. 2007. Preface & Introductory Remarks on Creole. In *Haitian Creole-English Bilingual Dictionary*, i-xxxii (32 pages). Ed. by Valdman, Albert. Bloomington: Indiana University Creole Institute.
21. Harbour, Daniel. 2008. Klivaj predika, or predicate clefts in *Haitian. Lingua*, 118.7.July. 853-871.
22. Degraff, Michel. Is Haitian Creole a Pro-Drop Language? In *Atlantic meets Pacific: A Global View of Pidginization and Creolization*, 71-90. Ed. by Byrne, Francis and John Holm. Amsterdam: Benjamins.
23. Hilton, Dimitri. 2000. Pronominal Clitics in Haitian Creole: Phonological or Syntactic. In *Advances in African Linguistics*, 51-59. Ed. by Carstens, Vicki and Frederick Parkinson. Trenton: Africa World Press.
24. Valdman, Albert and Iskra Iskrova. 2003. A new look at nasalization in Haitian Creole. In *Phonology and Morphology of Creole Languages*, 25-42. Edited by Plag, Ingo. Tübingen: Niemeyer.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> (Links to an external site.)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police
Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Privacy Policies

<https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy> (Links to an external site.)

<https://www.instructure.com/canvas/accessibility> (Links to an external site.)

<https://zoom.us/privacy> (Links to an external site.)

<https://zoom.us/accessibility> (Links to an external site.)

Important links to the Office of Academic Support Services, Student Life Success Services, and Academic Advisors.

<https://oas.aa.ufl.edu/services/> (Links to an external site.)

<https://www.ufl.edu/student-life/success-services/> (Links to an external site.)

<http://www.ufadvising.ufl.edu/college-remote-advising-contacts/> (Links to an external site.)

Course Evaluation information

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> (Links to an external site.). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> (Links to an external site.). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> (Links to an external site.)

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the

presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Reference and Bibliography Guidelines

In the text:

1. (a) Zéphir (1997: 223) advocates the instruction of Haitian Creole in the United States’ secondary education system.
2. (b) Misclassifying Creole-speakers as African Americans fails to properly account for linguistic and cultural differences (Zéphir 1997: 223).

In the bibliography:

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Zéphir, Flore. 1997. Haitian Creole Language and Bilingual Education in the United States: Problem, Right or Resource? Article in *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 223-37

a. Book:

Author. Year of publication. Title of book. City of publisher: Publisher.

b. Article in journal, magazine, etc.:

Author. Year of publication. Title of article. Article in Name of source,

Volume/number of issue, page numbers.

See the bibliography for further examples.

Academic Honesty Guidelines

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic

information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.

Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines include but are not limited to:

Cheating. The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes copying graded homework assignments from another student; working with another individual(s) on graded assignments or homework; looking or attempting to look at notes, a text, or another student's paper during an exam.

Plagiarism. The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is oral or written (including electronic), published or unpublished. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on written materials or in oral presentations; submitting work produced by an on-line translation service or the translation feature of an on-line dictionary as your own.

Misrepresentation. Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

Bribery, Conspiracy, Fabrication. For details see below.

The UF Honor Code states:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

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Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.

For more details go to: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm>

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities must register with the Dean of Students office. Contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at:

P202 Peabody Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-5055
Phone (352) 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD)

For stress, emotional and psychological support, please contact the Counseling Center at: 301 Peabody Hall

Phone (352) 392-1575

Or: www.cousel.ufl.edu

If you need this syllabus in an alternate format, please speak to Ben.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1 January 3		Introduction	AV pp. 1-10 (Chapter 1) Introduction
2 January 10	AV pp. 13-19	AV pp. 59-67 (2) The Phonological System	AV pp. 67-77
3 January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO CLASS	AV pp. 79-84 (3) Variation in the Forms of Words	AV pp. 84-94
4 January 24	AV pp. 139-147 (5) Homework 1 The Structure of the Haitian Creole Lexicon	AV pp. 147-159	AV pp. 160-164
5 January 31	AV pp. 166-171 (6) The Origin of the Haitian Creole Lexicon	AV pp. 171-178	AV pp. 178-187
6 February 7	AV pp. 189-196 (7) Homework 2 Basic Sentence Structure	AV pp. 196-201	AV pp. 201-207
7 February 14	Midterm Review	Midterm Exam	AV pp. 209-219 (8) The Verbal System

8 February 21	AV pp. 219-227	AV pp. 227-237	AV pp. 237-249
9 February 28	AV pp. 253-262 (9) <i>The Structure of Noun Phrases</i> Turn in 1,000-word Essay 1	AV pp. 262-275	AV pp. 275-286
Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
10 March 7	AV pp. 288-299 (10) <i>Complex Sentences: Coordination, Subordination, Clefting</i>	AV pp. 299-305	AV pp. 305-313
11 March 14	AV pp. 315-330 (11) <i>Variation in Haitian Creole</i>	AV pp. 331-343	AV pp. 343-354
12 March 21	AV pp. 357-366 (12) <i>Language planning</i> Homework 3	AV pp. 367-379	AV pp. 379-392
13 March 28	AV pp. 395-400 (13) <i>The Genesis and Development of Haitian Creole</i>	AV pp. 400-410	AV pp. 410-420

14 April 4	AV pp. 415-421 Turn in 1,000-word Essay 2	AV pp. 421-425	AV pp. 425-430
15 April 11	AV pp. 430-439 Homework 4	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
16 April 18	REVIEW	FINAL April 20	

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Course Summary:

Date	Details
Mon Jan 24, 2022	Assignment Valdman Quiz 1 on Chapters 1-2
	Assignment Homework 1: Comparing the Structures of Jamaican Creole, English, Haitian Creole, and Gullah
Mon Feb 7, 2022	Assignment Homework 2: Colonial French
	Assignment Valdman Quiz 2 on Chapters 3, 5 & 6 (up to pp. 171)
Wed Feb 16, 2022	Assignment Midterm Exam
Mon Feb 28, 2022	Assignment 1000 word first draft, essay 1
Mon Mar 21, 2022	Assignment Homework 3: Clefting and Focalization in Haitian Creole (pp. 301-313)

Date	Details
Mon Apr 4, 2022	Assignment 1000 word first draft, essay 2
Mon Apr 11, 2022	Assignment Homework 4: The Genesis and Development of Haitian Creole
Fri Apr 15, 2022	Assignment In-class presentation: 10 minutes
Wed Apr 20, 2022	Assignment Final Exam Assignment Final, Corrected Essay 1
Fri Apr 22, 2022	Assignment Final, corrected essay 2 Assignment IPA Quiz 1 Assignment Quiz 4 Assignment Quiz 5 on Creole Genesis Assignment Roll Call Attendance

Prev monthNext monthDecember 2021 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda y	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 November 202128Previou s month	29 November 202129Previou s month	30 November 202130Previou s month	1 December 20211	2 December 20212	3 December 20213	4 December 20214
5 December 20215	6 December 20216	7 December 20217	8 December 20218	9 December 20219	10 December 202110	11 December 202111
12 December 202112	13 December 202113	14 December 202114	15 December 202115	16 December 202116	17 December 202117	18 December 202118
19 December 202119	20 December 202120	21 December 202121	22 December 202122	23 December 202123Toda y	24 December 202124	25 December 202125

Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 December 202126	27 December 202127	28 December 202128	29 December 202129	30 December 202130	31 December 202131	1 January 20221Next t month
2 January 20222Next month	3 January 20223Next month	4 January 20224Next month	5 January 20225Next month	6 January 20226Next month	7 January 20227Nex t month	8 January 20228Nex t month

Assignments are weighted by group:
