

## Medieval Latin Club, meeting 3d (1 hour)

### I. Vocab/Etymology (15 minutes):

#### A. Latin root: spectat “see, observe”

- spectacle, spectator, speculation, speculator, circumspect, conspicuous, inspect, inspection, perspective, respect, respectable, retrospect, suspect, suspicion

- Ask students to brainstorm derivatives.

#### B. Affixes in English words:

i. Review the definitions of prefix, suffix, and root as needed.

ii. Review affixes from 3a, 3b, and 3c.

iii. Ask students to come up with their own examples of words with the given affixes. Ask them to explain how the affix affects the meaning of the word.

#### C. Vocab review:

i. Word search with clues based on English and Spanish cognates

ii. Identify vocab words from Medieval manuscripts (handout found on Bartholomew’s World website). Have students translate the word they identify and offer one derivative.

### II. Grammar (20 minutes):

#### A. Review grammar concepts from previous lesson:

i. Remind students of adjective-noun agreement rules. Mention that adjectives can agree with a noun in the previous sentence when the noun is not repeated (i.e. *Scintilla laborat; fessa est.*).

ii. Remind students that prepositional phrases take nouns in a certain case. Many of the prepositions we have seen take nouns in the accusative case. With sentences with multiple nouns in the accusative case, students need to note which accusative nouns are the object of a preposition (objects follow directly after the preposition) and which are direct objects of the verb.

B. Translate the Latin passage from the chapter. Have students read the Latin aloud and then translate.

C. New grammar concepts:

- i. Introduce the pronouns *eum* and *eam*. Note that they follow the adjective-noun agreement rules – pronouns match their antecedents. Note that pronouns, like nouns, have cases to indicate their function in the sentence.

### III. Medieval World (20 minutes): Dragons

A. pictures from Bestiary: winged dragon, dragon frightened of peridexion tree, dragon hiding from panther (at extreme right)

B. text: Bartholomew on the Dragon

“The dragon is the largest of all serpents, as Isidore says in book 12. ...He does not have as much poison as other serpents, since poisons are not necessary for him to bring death upon anything, since if he binds anything, he kills it. Therefore even an elephant is not safe because of the size of its body, for he hides around the paths where elephants walk, ties and knots his tail around their legs, and destroys and kills them by suffocation.

“The dragon lives in India and in Ethiopia, in the very fire of eternal summer, as Isidore says in book 12. Pliny also says about dragons that a dragon twenty cubits in size was born in Ethiopia. They are in the habit of joining together four or five, or ten or fifteen, and sailing with heads erect, across the sea and rivers, for better pastures (same source, ch. 13).”

Question: Why would Bartholomew be more likely to say that dragons live in India than in

England? Eventually Bartholomew traveled across Europe, but his friend, Jordan of Giano, was afraid to go to Germany.

<http://bartholomew.stanford.edu/authors/bartholomew.html>

Notice that even centuries later, Europeans had strange ideas about India.

[http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00generallinks/munster/india/aa\\_india.html](http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00generallinks/munster/india/aa_india.html)

C. Dragon or snake? A classification problem: Solution the Dragon is the biggest & worst snake.

Could a case be made for calling them birds?

In some medieval writings on the “dragon” (*draco*), it looks like the kind of dragon we imagine, flying and breathing fire. Other times, it looks more like a big constrictor snake, lying in wait so it can wrestle an elephant. How do these stories of mythical animals get started? How does the dragon/snake question compare with the relationship of the unicorn

<http://www.bestiary.ca/beasts/beast140.htm> and narwhal <http://www.narwhal.info/> (a whale with a single spiral-shaped tusk, which was probably mistaken for a unicorn's horn)?

D. Why do Dragons breathe fire?

“fire-breathing”: “Pliny also says that because of the strength of the venom his tongue is always rigid, and since he sets the air on fire with the heat of his venom, and thus he seems to breathe fire.”

Possibly strong poison is associated with fire, since heat is the strongest and most chemically active of the four basic qualities: heat, cold, wet, and dry.

IV. Conclusion (5 minutes):