Medieval Latin Club, meeting 6a (1 hour):

I. Vocabulary/etymology (15 minutes)
   A. Introduce vocabulary from the chapter
   C. Brainstorm derivatives from Latin root: doceo, docere: to teach
      Docile, doctor, doctrine, doctrinal, document, documentary, indoctrinate, doctrinaire

D. PREFIXES:

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
ab & \text{circum} \\
pro & \\
\end{array}
\]

1) **ab**: AWAY FROM

   a. Examples:

      i. abandon – to leave behind, walk away from
      ii. abjure – solemnly renounce a belief, cause, or claim
      iii. abject – cast off, rejected (literally ‘thrown away’)  
         iv. abstain – restrain oneself from doing something (literally ‘hold back from’) 

   b. Puzzles:

      i. If “sunt” is Latin for ‘to be’, what word means ‘to be away, to not be present’? (absent)
      ii. If “ducit” is Latin for ‘to lead’, what word means ‘to lead away, kindap’? (abduct)
      iii. If “radere” is Latin for ‘to scrape’, what word means ‘scraped away’? (abrasion)
      iv. If “solvit” is Latin for ‘to loosen, set free’, what word means ‘to set free from blame’? (absolve)
      v. If “scondet” is Latin for ‘to stow, hide’, what word means ‘to hide away’? (abscond)
2) **circum**: AROUND

   a. Examples:

      i. circumference – the length of the line that surrounds a circle

      ii. circumstance – the conditions surrounding or accompanying an event

   b. Puzzles:

      i. If “loqui” is Latin for ‘to speak’, what does *circumlocution* mean?

      ii. If “scribit” is Latin ‘for write’, what word means to draw one figure around another?

         (circumscribe)

      iii. If “ambulat” is Latin for ‘to walk’, what word means to walk around?

         (circumambulate)

3) **pro**: BEFORE, IN FRONT OF

   a. Examples:

      i. project – to throw or cause to move forward or outward

      ii. procreate – produce young, reproduce

      iii. propel – drive, push, or cause to move forward

      iv. pronounce – declare or announce, formally or publicly

      v. proclaim – announce officially or publicly

      vi. promote – further the progress of something

   b. Puzzles:

      i. If “cras” is Latin for ‘tomorrow’, what word means ‘to put off until tomorrow’?

         (procrastinate)

      ii. If “spectat” is Latin for ‘to see’, what word means ‘likely to happen in the future’?

         (prospective)

      iii. If “cedit” is Latin for ‘to go, move’, what word means ‘to move forward’?

         (proceed)
iv. If “ducit” if Latin for ‘to lead’, what word means ‘to create something from raw materials’?

(produce)

If “gressi” is Latin for ‘to move, step’, what word means ‘to make strides forward’?

(progress)

II. Grammar (20 minutes)

A. Sample Sentences.
B. Introducing the Infinitive

III. Medieval World: (15 minutes): Leprosy

Medieval medicine was based on a theory of humors. When the four humors were properly balanced, there was health. If it was disturbed, illness resulted. The four humors were:

A. Sanguine (blood) characterized by hot and wet like air.
B. Choleric (yellow bile) characterized by hot and dry like fire.
C. Melancholic (black bile) characterized by cold and dry like earth.
D. Phlegmatics (phlegm) characterized by cold and wet like water.

The names for the humors mostly come from Greek words -- all except ‘sanguine’ which comes from the Latin word for blood.

Here is an illustration from a fifteenth century French manuscript showing the composition of a body from the four humors:

Bibliothèque Nationale de France, FR 135, fol. 91
Bartholomaeus Anglicus (Bartholomew the Englishman), On the Properties of Things
http://www.bnf.fr/enluminures/manuscrits/aman7/i4_0057.htm

Leprosy was characterized as a disorder resulted from an excess of the melancholy humor.

Bartholomew the Englishman’s De proprietatibus rerum 7.64 writes: Leprosy is a corruption of the organs and humors, having its beginning from vessels and its completion in fountains or outside the vessel. When the humor of nutriment is corrupted, the organs are easily corrupted, as they are fed from the humors. Every [kind of] elephantiasis or leprosy, according to Constantine [citation], has its beginning principally from the corruption of black bile. Therefore Constantine says that leprosy is a cold dry affliction, originating from black bile which is tightened and rotten, appearing on the surface of the body. For it originates from the four humors when they are rotten, yet tightened and corrupted, and transformed into black bile, as the same man says in the same place. Rotting of the humors with which black bile is mixed, on account of its cold dry quality that resists rotting, cannot occur in the veins or in vessels, until it is integrated in the body. It causes a delay in the limbs in which the rotting occurs, from which leprosy itself follows.

The social response to leprosy varied:

The social response to leprosy varied. The social response to leprosy varied. Some Christians told sinners that they might get with the disease as a result of their sin. Other Christians made a religious
practice of showing compassion for lepers, bathing and embracing them. St. Francis of Assisi. Francis’ Testament begins by explaining the sight of leper was offensive to him only while he was in sin:

“This is how the Lord gave me, brother Francis, the power to do penance. When I was in sin the sight of lepers was too bitter for me. And the Lord himself led me among them, and I pitied and helped them. And when I left them I discovered that what had seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness in my soul and body. And shortly afterward I rose and left the world.”

Other Christians moved by compassion founded leprosaria. Lanfranc of Bec, a great Archbishop of Canterbury (d. 1089) founded a famous leprosarium at Harbledown near Canterbury, which was one of the first independent hospitals in England. No doubt much good was done by such hospitals, but they also served to isolate lepers (and people suspected of having leprosy) from the rest of society. In 1175 the English church decreed that lepers could not live among the healthy. So the leprosaria were a mixed blessing. They reflect people’s horror as well as their compassion.

Here is an illustration from a 15th century Spanish showing Job afflicted with leprosy:
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Roth 2529, fol. 261v.
http://www.bnf.fr/enlum-bin/afiche.exe?a8_0040.htm&/enluminures/themes/t_3/ast_3_04.htm&Medecine

IV. Conclusion (5 minutes)

The prefixes we introduced today (ab, pro, circum) are some of the commonest and most useful to know. Many can combine with the new vocabulary introduced today – for example, circumscribe. And one of the new vocabulary words is just pro + a demonstrative suffix, so its root meaning must be something like in front of this. Isn’t it odd that near is a constructed word, not itself a base.

We are used to infinitives as they are constructed in English: to write, to teach etc. They are so called because unlike most verbs they are not restricted by being singular or plural, second person or third person. And also though they are one of the principal forms of any verb, they often function as abstract nouns, as in “to dance is to live richly” or “to teach is to learn things anew.”

FN: LatN06a.doc, OLC06gr1.doc