

Medieval Latin Club, meeting 7c (1 hour)

I. Vocab/Etymology (15 minutes):

A. Latin root: omnis “all, whole”

- omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, omnifarious, omnivorous, omnicompetent
- Ask students to brainstorm derivatives.

B. Affixes in English words:

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

ii. Suffixes: -al

a) -al/-ial: of, related to, characterized by, pertaining to

- Forms adjectives from nouns

- Give students the following examples:

a) trivial – of little value of importance (ref. trivia)

b) financial – relating to or involving money or finances

c) celestial – of or relating to the heavens (caelum is Latin for sky)

- Prompt students with the following questions:

a) pertaining to the nation? (national)

b) coming from nature? (natural)

c) based on fiction? (fictional)

d) If visus is Latin for to see, what word means pertaining to sight? (visual)

e) If manus is Latin for hand, what word means of or done with the hands? (manual)

f) If vox, vocis is Latin for voice, what word means pertaining to the voice? (vocal)

g) Mars was the Roman god of war; what word means pertaining to or having the characteristics of war?

(martial)

- 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. Spanish cognates list. Pass out table of Latin / Spanish / English equivalents. Review some cognates.
- ii. Puzzles with clues in Spanish and English.

II. Grammar (20 minutes):

A. Review grammar concepts from previous lesson:

- i. Review third declensions nouns and endings. Put up a paradigm of the endings.

B. Exercise from the back of the book: 7.3, 7.4.

C. New grammar concepts:

- i. Go over the irregular verb forms, following the introduction on page 122.

III. Medieval World (20 minutes): Social Roles: The feudal system: working the land

A. You may have heard the term “feudal” used to describe medieval society. The feudal system of medieval Europe organized society in a hierarchy. It was a very rigid hierarchy; there was little social mobility except, through learning, into the ranks of the church. The king was at the top; other lords, who served as knights, were his vassals, meaning that they obeyed him and went to war for him, while he helped protect them.

- i. [Coronation of a French king](#) (Pepin the Short)
- ii. [The French king Clovis](#) and his sons the princes
- iii. [A knight](#)
- iv. [Two knights fighting](#)
- v. [Benediction of a knight](#) by a bishop

B. These wealthy lords lived on estates called “manors,” and they had vassals of their own. The majority of those subjects were serfs, poor peasants who farmed a small piece of land, giving the landlord a part of the harvest. Farming was very hard work, and serfs lived a hard life of great poverty. In addition to farming the land, serfs would perform services on the manor such as wood-cutting. Here Bede tells the story of Adam in Paradise as a happier and easier time for managing the earth:

i. "On Farming," Bede, *Hexameron*:

“Therefore the Lord God brought the man whom he had made, and placed him in a paradise of pleasure, so that he could manage and maintain it.” [Genesis 2:15] When it says “so that he could manage and maintain it,” this seems to look back to the place where it is said, “and there was no man to manage the earth.” However, in this commentary on scripture, we might add the words of Saint Augustine: “Why should he manage or maintain it? Did the Lord perhaps want the first man to practice agriculture? Or is it unbelievable that he had condemned him to labor before his sin? And so we should think, unless we were to see some people practicing agriculture with such pleasure in their hearts that it would be a great punishment for them to be called away from it to something else. Therefore agriculture has some element of pleasure, and certainly this was much greater when no misfortune ever befell the earth or sky. For there was no suffering from labor, but rather enjoyment of purpose, when those things which God created sprang forth with greater health and vigor because of man's assistance, so that the Creator himself was praised more richly, because he gave reason to the soul rooted in an animal body, and the ability to work enough for the spirit's desire, not so much as the body's needs unwillingly compelled.”

ii. Serfs' activities:

- a) [A lazy man](#) next to harnessed plow – most serfs worked much harder than this!
- b) [Noah harvesting grapes](#)
- c) [Cutting wood](#)

C. Other ways of using the land included hunting and fishing, as well as herding sheep. Hunting was a highly skilled occupation; children would be apprenticed for years to hunters who would teach them the skills of the trade. Animals were hunted with bows and arrows, spears, nets and snares, and sometimes with dogs. Noble sport hunters would have a horse they could ride while hunting, but people who engaged in hunting as a trade would not have been wealthy enough to own a horse.

i. [Hunting scene](#)

ii. [Monkey hunting a porcupine](#): Many medieval manuscripts are decorated with pictures of monkeys doing things people usually do – hunting, fishing, spinning wool, etc.

iii. [Hunting a stag](#)

iv. [Hunting a bird](#)

v. [Shepherd and soldiers](#)

IV. Conclusion (5 minutes)

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