

Radical Renaissance Writers – Pre-Class Activities

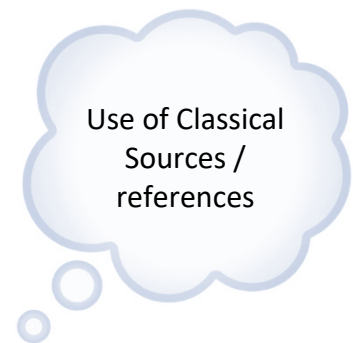
Week 1: Christine de Pizan (1364 – 1430)

1. Read the extracts from *The Lamentations of Matheolus*.

- Make a list of the stereotypes of women that Matheolus uses.
 - Do they have classical precedents?¹
 - Have you come across these stereotypes in other literature?
- Consider the methods of argumentation that the author uses.
 - For example, how does he try to make his arguments persuasive? How does he support his claims?
- What is the tone of the text?

2. Read the extracts from Christine de Pizan's *The Book of the City of Ladies*.

- **Introduction** [Extract 1]:
 - What do we learn about Christine, the first-person narrator?
 - How does she discredit the authority of *The Lamentations of Matheolus* in the opening paragraphs?
- **Themes.** Note down anything you find interesting or intriguing from the extracts related to the following themes & add your own theme in the 3rd bubble:



¹ If you are familiar with ancient Greek or Roman authors, note down where you have noticed these kinds of stereotypes being used before.