**Reading Group 2 – *The Book of the City of Ladies –* Devil’s Advocate**

1. **This book, although it claims to be searching for truth to counter the untrue biased opinions written about women by men at the time, is nothing more than a counterpart to the women bashing articles written by men. This book does nothing but bash men and praise women.** 
   1. All throughout the book, men are seen as idiots and unworthy of the true glory that is women. And the book focuses on only the great deeds of women such as the amazons and Queen Semi Aramis, even though there are countless stories of great male heroes such as alexander the great and Gideon, who were just as fearless in the face of adversity, but receive no credit. The only times that men are given any credit (Hercules, Theseus, etc.), it is only to show how much greater and braver women are against this irrelevant men (Amazons). Claiming that male authors of these stories make excuses for their hero’s defeat.
2. **This book is incredibly biased in nature and is not an accurate representation of women, men, or the times.**
   1. In the same way that books written by men about men rarely view men in a completely accurate light, books written about women by women will rarely see themselves entirely accurately. This is because it is almost impossible to view all of one’s own flaws (even the book speaks of this problem! – page 1998-99) and also because it is very easy and tempting to make oneself seem better when writing a story. It is always easier to justify an action if you were the one making it, and it is always easier to see other people’s flaws then your own. For these reasons this book written by an oppressed woman concerning the oppression of women and women’s true nature, is biased in nature and can’t be trusted on its own as an accurate representation of either women, men, or what life was like in those times.
3. **The lady reason makes unreasonable claims and doesn’t use logic in her reasoning.**
   1. The lady reason in the story makes claims about women and their inventions that are simply preposterous, not because they are women, but because no one person could do all the things that reason claims these women have done. Specifically Minerva, who is said to have made oil presses, carts and chariots, almost all wind instruments, and created the art of blacksmithing. Not to mention Nicostra who single handedly created the Latin alphabet. When it comes to reasons’ lack of logic I look at the beginning of the story, when Reason begins to make claims about certain truths, such as that since she knows one or two people that happened to be small while brave, and strong while stupid, she says that this is always the case that when you are denied one attribute you are granted another, Even though countless men and women are both strong and brave or both small and cowardly. She also speaks without considering other opinions, which is inherently illogical to think of one’s own opinions as absolute truth without giving evidence.
4. **The author of this book cannot truly relate to the oppression of women in this time, and therefore cannot give an accurate representation or solution, just as someone who was born into a millionaires family can’t ever truly relate or understand what it is like to live in poverty as a millionaire.**
   1. This women in the beginning of the story is seen reading many books of education and what not, viewed to be incredibly intelligent, and even enjoys herself by reading poetry of leisure. If this women spends all of her free time reading and educating herself from a vast collection of books, then she is most likely rich or is married to a rich ruler. In either situation it is highly unlikely that she understands the true struggles of women and what a woman’s life is like in a poorer marriage. Nor can she say that she understands the true nature of women, as she most likely spends all of her free time with women like her, educated, refined, and spoiled. This is one of the reasons that she makes the claims she makes about the glory of women, because all she has ever been around is rich women with rich and probably egotistical lords as husbands, reading nothing but the biased words of male authors in her vast private book collection. She hasn’t actually met real men and women, there could be countless wonderful men, and countless terrible women.