Defenses of Women
Medieval and Early Modern
in the Hispanic World

CROSS-LISTED AS:
ROML 4120/6120 • CMLT 4110/6110
SUMMER SHORT SESSION II
9:15 - 11:30 DAILY
A COURSE PRESENTED BY VISITING SCHOLAR

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The debate on the nature of women coincides with the birth of literature in Spanish and evolves until it becomes the main literary topic in the Fifteenth Century and one of the recurrent motifs of Early Modern Hispanic Literature. We will see a variety of European authors who serve as the backdrop against which the Spanish querelle des femmes was articulated. The vindication of the rights of women to equal access to virtue, education, or eternal salvation was grounded on the authority of classical and post-classical authors such as Aristotle, Galen, Ovid, Juvenal, Tertulian, or Ciprian, the church fathers St. Gerome, St. Augustin, Thomas Aquinas, and medieval authors such as Petrus Alphonsus, Andreas Capellanus, Boccaccio, Petrarca, or Christine de Pizan. We will analyze works by Constanza de Castilla, Florencia Pinar, Teresa de Cartagena, Juan Rodriguez del Padrón, Diego de Valera, Álvaro de Luna, Francesc Eiximenis, Martín de Córdoba, Antonio de Guevara, Juan Luis Vives, Pedro Torrellas, Juan de Flores, Juan del Enzina, Bartolomé de Torres Naharro, Diego de San Pedro, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, or María de Zayas.

Julio Vélez-Sainz is an Associate Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Until 2007 he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has held visiting posts in France (Université de Toulouse), the U.S. (Brown University), and Ecuador (Ambato). He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2002 and another one from the Universidad de Salamanca in 2008. He has published three monographs on different aspects of Medieval and Early Modern Peninsular Literature, three critical editions, and has edited four collections of essays. His record attests over fifty publications in refereed journals on, among other topics, the Spanish Querelle-des-femmes.

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