

This seminar tries to focus on the negative aspect of Helen's beauty taking as a starting point the word *κυνῶπις* (dog-face) she often uses to characterize herself in the Homeric epics. This negative aspect is associated with the familiar issue of Helen's guilt since the word is mainly used in contexts referring to and characterizing her deeds and not her physical appearance which in any case remains undefined in most poetic descriptions. Consequently, some notions which seem to constitute these characterizations will be examined, namely the use and image of the dog, Helen's interventions within the Iliadic and the Odyssean narratives and, also, some further implications suggested in Greek drama concerning the responsibility of Helen in several instances of the Trojan mythical cycle.