The Forgotten War: Korea in History and Memory – H&G11-5b-Tues3

Study Group Leader: Matthew D. Linton

Tuesdays October 31, November 7, 14, & 28 and December 5, 2:10-3:35pm

Description: The Korean War is often called “the forgotten war” by historians. Nestled between the thrill of victory in World War II and the agony of retreat in Vietnam, the Korean War was different. It tells no familiar story: neither a tale of triumph over Hitler nor the story of the limits of American power in a Cold War context. This course will examine the causes of the Korean War, analyze the conflict itself, and investigate how the war has been remembered in the United States, China, and the Koreas. It will conclude with a discussion of how the Korean War has shaped current international relations. The course will be discussion-based with a few short lectures.


Preparation time: 1-2 hours per week (50-100 pages of reading).

Matthew D. Linton is an instructor in history at Brandeis University. As a doctoral candidate, he specializes in twentieth century American intellectual and political history. His research explores the relationship between academia and the national security state during World War II and the Cold War. His work has appeared in the Journal of American-East Asian Relations, and the Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives.