Doors open at 8:30 AM for coffee and donuts.

9:00 AM  Chinese-American Relations in the Trump Era: Cooperation, Confrontation or Crisis?
Jean Garrison, Director, Center for Global Studies; Professor of International Studies and Political Science, University of Wyoming

China’s economic rise and growing activism in East Asia brings new challenges to American interests and allies in the Asia-Pacific region. Increasing instability in the region posed by the territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the provocation of North Korean missile tests further complicate the relationship. This talk will evaluate the current state of Sino-American relations and the tools available to the Trump administration, and future American leaders, to manage how it evolves.

10:15 AM  The American Problem: James Weldon Johnson’s “Art Approach” to Politics
Arielle Zibrak, Assistant Professor of English, University of Wyoming at Casper

What are the ethics of cultural appropriation? What place does cultural history hold in debates about politics? Dr. Arielle Zibrak of the University of Wyoming Department of English and UW Casper will discuss the work and philosophies of James Weldon Johnson, one of the key authors of the Harlem Renaissance and the NAACP. Touching on histories of literature, music, and dance, Zibrak will connect Johnson’s ideas about race and culture to issues that continue to challenge us today.

11:30 AM  New infectious diseases in a changing world: Should Wyoming worry?
R. Scott Seville, Professor of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming at Casper

In the last few years, several scares have appeared in the news media about new diseases with horrible symptoms. Ebola, SARS, West Nile Virus, H1N1 Influenza, Chronic Wasting Disease have all made headlines recently. Scientists call these maladies Emerging infectious diseases (EIDs). They are illnesses that have recently appeared or whose frequency or geographic range is rapidly increasing. However, the reality is that infectious diseases have been emerging and re-emerging for millennia and only recently, due to various global changes, seem to be increasing. What are the factors that are leading to this increase and how might the future of Wyoming and its communities be affected?

Presentations followed by a roundtable discussion with speakers over FREE lunch.