

## **Faculty member to critique individualism, race at Forum**

10/21/14

Alfred University's (AU) longstanding lunchtime series, the Bergren Forum, continues Thursday, Oct. 30, at 12:10 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center. The program is free and open to the public.

Associate Professor of Social Science Robert Stein will present a talk, titled "Individualism and Race in Peter Matthiessen's 'Shadow Country,'" in which he will elaborate on the critique of individualism within Matthiessen's novel.

Stein will discuss the character of Edgar Watson, whose psychological incoherence results from his commitment to American individualism and its corresponding racial assumptions.

Stein earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Stanford University, and a master of arts degree and Ph.D., also in political science, from the University of Michigan. He is a recipient of the Ruth Berger Rubenstein Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching and an AU Alfie Award for Outstanding Faculty Contribution to Campus Life.

Additionally, Stein has been featured in several publications including the Journal of Political Science, New Political Science, and Political Science and Politics. He has given numerous presentations at such venues as the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, State University of New York at Brockport History Brown Bag Series, and the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association.

The Bergren Forum is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost's Office. Guests are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

The series known as the Bergren Forum began in 1970. Rick Bergren, who taught at the University in the 1970s, started the forums after being inspired by learning of the gatherings that (AU) students in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were known to conduct in Alumni Hall to discuss community issues. After Bergren's death in 1974, the University decided to continue the tradition in his name. Various faculty members have taken on the coordinator duties since that time. William S. Dibrell, professor of philosophy, is the current coordinator.