

**Essential Questions:** How can the United States continue to lead the world as an Empire of Trust? What connections exist in the historiography of the Roman Empire and the American Empire that can illuminate the options for American success in securing its interests and preeminence? Does it matter to the world and to the American people that the United States continues to occupy the role as the leading nation of the world? If so, how does the United States lead? How does this country develop leaders for the future challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? What will be the qualities of that leadership in meeting the challenges of growing populations, decreasing known natural resources, emerging global markets, terrorism, economic and political equity, advances in bio- and nanotechnology, global warming and energy depletion? Will the 21<sup>st</sup> century become the next ‘American Century’?

**Texts:** Thomas Madden, *Empires of Trust*  
Peter Clarke, *The Last Thousand Days of the British Empire*  
Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money*  
David Shields, *Cold War Politics*  
H.W. Brands, *Traitor to His Class*  
Brendan Simms, *Three Victories and a Defeat*

**Internet:** Interactive partnerships via electronic means with other schools

**Overview:**

The overall objective of the History and Social Science Department at Cushing Academy is to foster in students a desire to acquire a strong sense of historiography and develop sufficient tools to further their knowledge of history and the social sciences. Shakespeare wrote that past is prologue and indeed, his observation must be considered as a part of the underlining modus operandi of why students study history in the first place. This course focuses on the rise of the United States as the preeminent world power and the unique course it has followed to gain this global position. As an “Empire of Trust,” students learn of the special connection the American Empire has with its ancient predecessor the Roman Empire and the requirement of the American people to develop leaders to employ positive strategies for coping with growing populations, emerging global markets, terrorism, economic and political equity, advances in bio- and nanotechnology, global warming and energy depletion. All of these concerns require a government led by educated and ethical citizens committed to ensuring that the United States lead the world in developing a fairer global community and preserving the ideal of Pax Americana.

**Methods:**

This course is designed to enable students to acquire tangible intellectual assets as a means of developing leadership skills in appropriate facets of human endeavor in order to promote the continuation of the ideals of the American Empire of Trust. Through collaborative, anchored inquiry, students learn to effectively research, discuss, listen, debate, collaborate, reflect, write, and express their understandings of relevant connections between the Roman and American historical records. The ideal setting amplifies independent research based on scholastic curiosity. The imperative, recognizing the most salient connections to the Roman ideology and the American ideology, drives the study of applying this knowledge as guides for leading the United States successfully through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Throughout the course, students will be learning to:

- Appreciate the unrivaled importance and influence of the Roman State.
- Understand the cultural legacy of Rome inherited by the Western world.
- Develop the ability to see historical, economic, and societal facts in context; distinguish underlying systemic movements and trends; and formulate potential solutions in moral, as well as, practical terms.
- Expand critical thinking skills, enabling the students to discern relative connections from coincidence.
- Utilize research, journalistic, internet, and historical materials in a discriminating way.
- Develop the ability to weigh evidence and reach conclusions on the basis of facts and reasoned argument, not prejudice.
- Listen carefully and communicate effectively through debate and discussion.
- See the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through a global perspective.
- Develop their capacity to create thoughtful, compassionate, and well-reasoned essays.
- To live a life of active purpose and thoughtful, intellectual and ethical leadership

**Core Units:**

- a. The Creation of the Roman State and its transition to Empire**
- b. The management and expansion of the Roman Empire**
- c. The creation of the United States and its transition to Empire**
- d. Cold War and the management of the American Empire**
- e. Winning the War and becoming the Hegemonic Power**
- f. Securing the Empire for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**