OVERVIEW: What defines an empire? How do economic, social, political, and/or cultural sites of power come together to create an empire? How are peripheries and frontiers central to the American empire? What is the role of violence in the creation and maintenance of empires? How are the rights and treatment of those on the margins defined? What role does race, gender, and ethnicity play in the creation of the American empire? Why do Americans resist defining themselves in terms of empire or imperialism? And how does the field or discipline of American Studies contribute to (or occlude) an understanding of America as empire?

The works below suggest a number of avenues into the study of the “American Empire.” Topics include cultural imperialism, empires domestic and political, the continental empire as well as international empires, and the overarching question, “is America an empire?” This list also has a special emphasis on the place of Hawaii in the American empire. Please note that many of these works can be used to answer many of the different questions above.

- Grandin, Greg. Empire’s Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism (Metropolitan, 2006),
- Project for the New American Century Website [http://www.newamericancentury.org/index.html]
- Murayama, Milton. All I Asking for is My Body (University of Hawaii Press, 1988)
- Rabe, David. Streamers (1976)

• *Smoke Signals*, Directed by Chris Eyre (1998)


• *The Good Shepherd*, Directed by Robert De Niro (2006)

• Twain, Mark. *Letters from Hawaii* (1866) (University of Hawaii Press, 1975)