

Unit Four

Work Culture

Anchor Texts for Unit Four:

Adorno, Theodor W., and Max Horkheimer. Trans. Andy Blunden. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception." *Marxists.org*. Web. 21 Jan. 2015.

(Optional) Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction* 6th Edition. "What Is Popular Culture?" New York: Routledge, 2012. Print.

Suggested Literary Texts and Films for this Unit:

Raymond Carver, "Neighbors"
John Clare, selected poems
Junot Diaz, "Edison, New Jersey"
Ben Franklin, "Way to Wealth"
Ben Hamper, *Rivethead*
Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*
Philip Levine, "Detroit Tomorrow," "What Work Is," and "The Present"
David Mamet, *Glengarry Glen Ross*
Herman Melville, *Bartleby the Scrivener*
Junebug (2005, Phil Morrison, director)
Tillie Olsen, *Yonnonddio*
George Orwell, *Down and Out in Paris and London*
Henry David Thoreau, "Life Without Principle"

Major Writing Assignment:

Public Presentation: For this assignment, students will interpret a text through the lens of a central concept and present that interpretation to the class. A variety of media can be used, but there must be a live, spoken component to the presentation.

Sample Daily Response Prompts:

Adorno (with Ben Hamper's *Rivethed*)

Assignment: read excerpts from Ben Hamper's *Rivethed* and Adorno & Horkheimer's "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception," (feel free to read commentary on the latter, as it is pretty dense) and either **respond to the following or choose a response appropriate for these readings:** take a particular concept from Adorno and Horkheimer and closely read a passage from Hamper that complicates (and represents) the theory. Clearly state how the Hamper passage complicates what Adorno and Horkheimer are claiming. **Bring laptops to class.**

Augmentation: Watch [Roger and Me](#) (versions available elsewhere – library, Netflix, Amazon – for free/less).

In-Class Lesson Plan Ideas

Lecture: The culture industry and the industry of culture. Pop Art, popular culture and mass production.

In-class: In groups of three, summarize three pages (to be assigned) of Adorno and Horkheimer and post summaries to [the class Google Doc](#).

Discussion: The culture industry and life on the assembly line.

Required Text for Unit Four