

HUMANITIES I

Unit III. The Humanities in New York (6)Chapter 5. The Business World

Affective Objectives:

- A. To become aware of how the good life might be achieved through commitment to one's work.
- B. To begin developing reasoned preferences for allocating time among work, cultural activities, family life, and so forth.

Knowledge Objectives:

- A. To know that New York businessmen devote more of their time to work than to any other activity, for various reasons, among them self expression, a sense of contribution and responsibility, status seeking and fear.
 - B. To know that executives often define the good life by their work, and that they try to relate other activities to work so that "leisure" becomes meaningless.
 1. How do the executives described in this article spend their time?
 2. How else could an executive spend his time if he did not work so hard? ~~How did the elite of Florence and Athens spend their time?~~
 3. ~~Why doesn't the American executive spend his time as the Florentine or Athenian elite did? Why doesn't he do other things? What exactly is the rationale for devoting all one's time to activities related to occupation or business.~~
 - ④ What conception of the good life does the executive's devotion to his work imply?
 - ⑤ Do you think the American executive allocates his time wisely? To what other things could he give his time? This question demands that you should confront the problem of determining the relationship between work and leisure.
 - ⑥ Do you think executives like the ones described in the reading are good men? Do you think it possible to be a good man without working, hard at the job? Should a man's identity be defined by the work he does?
- * Make a list of attributes which your group may suggest as priorities over the place of work in the life of a good man.
- * Clarify your definition of productive work and decide how much importance to give it in terms of being a good man.