

**History 474 Winter 2012**

**Response Five**

(on Paredes, 5-6, 9-63, 71-82, 99-118, 124-137, 147-75)

Please answer one of following two questions in a short essay (1.5 to 2 pages, typed, double-spaced). Follow the same rules and format as for the earlier responses.

1. To the extent that Feliciano finds the “good life” in Jonesville, what are the important elements behind his success?
2. Some scholars of race and ethnicity argue that these two terms have little basis in biology and instead are the product of social practices and cultural norms. Evaluate this point of view with examples from today’s reading, especially Part III (“Dear Old Gringo School Days”).

*\*\*To prepare for discussion, also pay attention to Paredes’ view of “los Sediciosos.” In what ways is his novel sympathetic toward them, and in what ways is it critical? [Do not, however, write an essay on this question.]*

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**Response Six (on Paredes, 189-302)**

Please answer one of following two questions in a short essay (1.5 to 2 pages, typed, double-spaced). Follow the same rules and format as for the earlier responses.

1. Although most of the main characters in the novel are male, what does the novel reveal about limits and opportunities for women in this time and place?
2. At the very end of the novel, Feliciano says that he and Gumersindo “could sit down and have a good long talk about” Guálinto/George. What do you think the two men might have said to each other in such a conversation?

*\*\*To prepare for discussion, also pay attention to Paredes’ treatment of the Great Depression. Who or what does he blame for people’s problems during the depression? [Do not, however, write an essay on this question.]*