Teacher: Mike Goddard

Lesson Plan: The Mississippi Delta and American Culture

Inspired by the NEH “Most Southern Place on Earth” Summer Institute, Delta State University, Summer 2015

**Warm-Questions and Class Discussions**

1. What is “American culture”?

2. Where is the Mississippi Delta?

**Photograph Interpretation: The Land**

\*Students will work in groups to interpret the following images:

1. “Most Southern” Poster of the Delta and the river’s flood zones

2. Photographs of the Great Flood

**Musical Interpretation: The Blues**

\*From a list of Delta bluesmen, students will choose one bluesman and conduct library research. Students will listen to at least two recordings by their chosen bluesman and interpret and analyze the lyrics.

**Political Interpretation: Emmitt Till**

\*Students will read a transcript of the Emmitt Till case and make connections to present-day race relations in America.

**FINAL PROJECT**

Students will write an essay in which they will formulate a thesis about American culture and the Mississippi Delta. They will use evidence from class to support their argument.