



March 1, 2008

Greetings:

We wish to invite you to participate in this research project on heritage tourism in the Mississippi Delta. This research project is part of a Sociology and Community Development course called Applied Rural Sociology (SOC 474/574 and COD 574), offered in the Division of Social Sciences at Delta State University (DSU). The instructor of this course is Dr. Alan Barton, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development. The students conducting this research are undergraduate and graduate students registered in this course.

Your contributions will assist us in developing a better understanding of the attitudes and perceptions of Delta residents regarding tourism focusing on civil rights as a community and economic development strategy. The information we collect will be used for a class assignment, which is a research paper due on April 24, 2008, and may be used for further papers to be given at specialized conferences or submitted to specialized academic journals. Results from this project will be presented in class on May 1, in 229 Kethley Hall on the DSU campus in Cleveland, beginning at 6:00 pm. All participants are invited to attend.

We anticipate this interview will last about ____ minutes, during which we will ask you open-ended questions pertaining to specific aspects of heritage tourism, community development, and civil rights issues. Generally, the topics covered will be public in nature. Personal information will be collected for demographic purposes only, and the names or precise identifying characteristics of specific participants will not be divulged in any report produced as part of this project. We can guarantee that confidentiality will be maintained by the interviewer and others directly involved in the project; however, you should be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality from others not attached to this course who are present at the interview (e.g. other participants in a focus group), as they are not bound by this confidentiality agreement.

We wish to assure you that your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can choose to discontinue your participation at any time. You are not required to answer any of the questions if you do not wish to. There is no compensation offered for your participation.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to know more about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Course Instructor:

Dr. Alan Barton
Division of Social Sciences
DSU Box 3264
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733
(662) 846-4097

Institutional Review Board Chair:

Dr. Dan McFall, IRB Chair
College of Education
DSU Box 3217
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733
(662) 846-4386

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this research project.

Sincerely,



INFORMED CONSENT FORM
SOC 474/574 COD 574 Applied Rural Sociology

Please read and sign below:

I agree that my participation in this research project on civil rights tourism is voluntary, and that I have read and agree to the statement of informed consent.

Signature

Date

Printed Name