A commonly held belief of Americans is "deep down, the people of the world are the same." This belief too frequently translates into an egocentric conviction that the world is either just like Americans or is striving to become more like us. This failure to recognize the world's cultural, religious, political, economic, and historical differences is a basic flaw of Americans. It limits our ability to understand, appreciate, assist, and compete with the people, businesses, and governments of other countries of the world. This course will examine topical world events and stress a non-American perspective. The size and complexity of the world means that you are regularly faced with media reports of events in places that you are unfamiliar with. This course will identify themes and patterns in world affairs that will provide you a conceptual basis for analyzing world affairs.

Catalog Course Description
Geography in the news. Analysis of current world conflicts and problem areas, with an emphasis upon examination of social, economic, political, and environmental realities. This is an approved General Education course. This is an approved Non-Western course.

Geography Department Goals
- To examine how humans modify and are affected by natural environments: This is a persistent theme and an analytical strength of a geographic approach to the study of world affairs: Geographic analysis identifies the integral role the natural environment in human society.
- To examine the physical and human characteristics of places and be able to identify them: Weekly map quizzes require students to learn the locations, while newspaper reading, books, and lectures provide meaning to these places.
- To examine the patterns, characteristics, and complexities of human populations and their interactions with spaces and places: The study of the geopolitical significance and patterns of human societies is fundamental to the understanding of world affairs.
- To examine the patterns and networks of political, socio-cultural, and economic interdependencies: Geography is an integrating discipline; this course will focus on the studies on relationships and linkages among the countries and peoples of the world. Newspaper readings will provide numerous and regular examples of "ripple effects" in world affairs.

Required Materials
- 40 Maps (http://twistedsifter.com/2013/08/maps-that-will-help-you-make-sense-of-the-world/)
- Readings posted on Professor Melcon’s website (http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8094/).

Course Requirements

Exams: There will be three midterm examinations and one final examination. The exams are a combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, matching, and essay questions. The final exam is comprehensive.

Readings: Students will read the assigned textbook. Specific news articles, editorials, and other readings will be posted on Professor Melcon’s website. (http://wizard.csuchico.edu:8092).

Mansion Tour: Students will visit the Bidwell Mansion Visitor Center and tour the mansion. A two-page paper will be submitted. The content should include 1) the extent to which the Bidwells were linked to a larger world, and 2) the feature you found most interesting in either the visitor center or the mansion itself. The maximum mark on a paper having more than three errors in spelling or grammar on a page will be a ‘C’. The paper is due in class on Thursday March 6th. Late papers will receive no higher mark than a ‘C’.

Course paper: A paper presenting the content and discussing the significance of five news articles from a national paper of a Sub-Saharan country in Africa will be completed and submitted on the last of finals week. The articles should be related or be part of a theme identified in the discussion. The paper will be in essay format or follow the journalistic style of an op-ed page. The bibliography must contain references to each of the five news articles. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and either four or five pages in length. A successful paper generally discusses the selected articles in the context of course concepts. Papers having more than three errors in spelling or grammar on a page will be assigned a ‘C’ (30 points). The paper is due in class on Thursday.

Other: At the instructor’s discretion, attendance points will be given out to those present in class. These points will be added to each student’s total.
Course Grading

Attendance is not mandatory, but absences generally have an adverse impact on a student's grade. Make-up work will be permitted only with instructor approval. Grades will be awarded in accordance with University catalog standards. Classroom participation will be considered when resolving borderline grades. Course grades will be determined in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bidwell Mansion</td>
<td>1@20 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>1@30 points</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exams</td>
<td>3@30 points</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1@40 points</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Holidays</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
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<tr>
<td>21, 23</td>
<td>Maps</td>
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<td>28, 29</td>
<td>State</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>4, 6</td>
<td>Nation</td>
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<td>11, 13</td>
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<td>Exam on Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th}</td>
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<td>18, 20</td>
<td>MDG</td>
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<td>25, 27</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 6</td>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Bidwell paper due in class on 6 March</td>
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<td>18, 21</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>28, 29</td>
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<td>1, 3</td>
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<td>15, 17</td>
<td>Conflicts</td>
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<td>6, 8</td>
<td>Disasters</td>
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<td>17, 19</td>
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<td>Final Exam TuTh 12:30 section, Tuesday, May 13, 2:00-3:50 PM</td>
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