Media for Social Change (Spring 2017)
Overview: This course examined alternatives and opportunities that disrupt dominant media trends, connecting communication, media and social transformation. The course addressed the complexity of social change and how media and communication initiatives can be allies in promoting social justice, teaching healthy lifestyles, inspiring sustainable living, fostering dialogues on diversity issues, mobilizing democratic movements, and fostering compassionate conversations on issues of social inclusion.

Project Description: Professor Estella Porras and her students worked in partnership with the Sustainable City Year Program coordinated by CSUMB College of Science Professor Dan Fernandez. The program is a “university-community connection where cities work with universities to ‘matchmake’ community needs (as determined by someone in city management) to university expertise.” Working with the city of Salinas, students crafted what they called the “Big Ear Project.” A self-described “experiment in deep listening,” the project included one on one conversations between students and diverse Salinas residents to explore local experience of living and working in the city. “Students used questions as civic tools,” as the project describes, “to generate curiosity and conversations about the residents’ sense of place, their role in the future of the city, and the way they imagine a sustainable Salinas.”

Sexuality, Law and History (Spring 2017)
Overview: This course focused on the histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people and communities in what is now the United States, particularly the multicultural dimensions of those histories, the formation of identity and communities, the emergence of an LGBTQ political movement, and the intersections of LGBTQ people and communities with law and legal systems, mostly in the latter part of the 20th century. In spring 2017, five main themes framed the course as a whole: identity; community; power; culture; and government and law.

Project Description: Students in the course were the first to conduct research in a Monterey County LGBTQ History archive which began as a collaboration between Professor David A. Reichard and Rainbow Speakers and Friends. Originating in the local community, the archive is now housed in Archives and Special Collections at the Tanimura and Antle Memorial Library at CSUMB. Working in teams, students conducted research in this archive and were tasked with connecting the wider histories of LGBTQ people and communities of the U.S. with the local context. Teams not only produced a final research paper, but also shared their findings at a poster session and event opening the collection for public use. The event, co-sponsored by the Office of Inclusive Excellence, the School of Humanities and Communication, and the CSUMB Library, drew community members to campus who had direct experience with the local LGBTQ histories students researched, creating opportunities for further dialogue. A selection of the posters produced by the students about their research were on display at the Monterey Peninsula Pride celebration in June 2017.

The Monterey Bay Justice Project originated as a section of Investigative Reporting and has continued with Independent Studies (2016- )
Overview: The Monterey Bay Justice Project originated with Professor Sam Robinson and an initial cohort of students. As the project’s mission statement notes, the organization works toward “fair
treatment for all within the criminal justice system, while creating awareness of and advocating for change on issues of social injustice.”

**Project Description:** In spring 2017, students in the Investigative Reporting class hosted a community forum at which they shared their work with faculty, CSUMB administrators, local media, law enforcement, and the general community. Student projects included a podcast exploring a local juvenile arrested on a charge of murder, a Public Service Announcement for Radio Bilingue about how to access court interpreters, a bilingual poster about how to get a public defender, and a pocket guide to navigate the Monterey County criminal justice system. The project has continued with students working closely with Professor Robinson through independent studies. In Fall 2017, the project screened *Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall* and hosted a Q&A with the director Edgar Barons. They also sponsored a screening of *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four* and hosted a discussion with one of the exonerees, Anna Vazquez.