DIY Assignment:

In an effort to embrace the DIY ethic that this course examines, this is a Do It Yourself assignment that you have absolute freedom to design and execute. Really. You figure it out.

In addition to the assignment itself, you will also be evaluated on a separate rationale for the assignment that should be approximately 500-1000 words. The rationale should explain the merits of the assignment in terms of its purpose, aspirations, and outcomes; in essence, you need to explain why you chose to do what you did, the value of that undertaking and process, and how this relates to the course and what you have learned. Assess how well the assignment worked to accomplish the goals you had and reflect on where your assignment could be improved. Assignments will be evaluated based on the execution of the assignment and the rationale. Whether or not the assignment is wholly “successful” is potentially less important than the lessons learned by undertaking it, so be bold and take risks.

The assignment can be submitted however is appropriate. Canvas will be one option available to you. If you need to deliver a tangible object or event or similar, this can be done after the deadline; just ensure your rationale is uploaded on time. Please feel free to consult with me regarding any timing concerns you might have.

Recorded stairwell performance of multiple instruments transcending genres and depicting alternative forms of expression.

Instruments:

* Ukulele
* Saxophone
* mouth
* drum machine

I decided to pursue this “performance” because I find the nature of DIY performance interesting and DIY ethic in general. I have always adorned music as a manner for expressing myself, yet I have not always felt comfortable expressing myself through music, whether its due to lack of talent, or simply the effort required to produce something of aesthetic value that I would even enjoy sharing. My goal with this assignment is to manifest punk DIY ethic into a radically different performance. My hope is that its observed as wholly original, though I acknowledge that any perceived originality in the final product is a façade for, I have been inspired. The final product is a video of myself performing in a stairwell. I enjoy harmonic resonance and I think that it has an impressive spiritual quality of transcendence that I want other people to experience the same kind of peaceful transcendence. I am drawing on the ideas of punk performance and music and DIY ethic to craft something unique that catalyzes some sort of emotional response. In a world where we are constantly pestered by a noisy world, I wanted to take a break and focus on raw beauty. Raw beauty for me exists in vibrations because, well, everything is moving and vibrating at different frequencies. But harmonic resonances are when different vibrations synchronize together. The idea of punk musical performance as a unifying medium is something that I have grown slightly obsessed with. Music, by its sonic quality of vibration is a manner in which one can “conduct” emotions. So, I my mission is to hone resonant frequencies found in harmonization to focus on tones that elicit emotions. The essence of this performance is that no matter what tones I play, there is still feedback and response even though I am alone in a stairwell. So, while its nice to have an audience that responds to music, it is also nice to listen carefully to that which we cannot see and how it responds to music. Call it a spiritual mission or whatever, but there is truth in the feelings that emerge from a performance of this nature. This is incidentally a very punk thing, I believe.