Syllabus for Voice Lessons in James Tener’s Studio
(Music 290F, Sect. JT #5465044 and Music 490F, Sect. JT #5538044)

1. **290 F Course Description:** This course can be taken for 1 or 2 credits, graded A-F or Pass/Fail.
   One credit = one 30 minute lesson per week for 14 weeks. Two credits = 60 minutes of instruction per week. The class may also be audited for no credit.
   Cost: $250 per credit to be charged to the University Bill as extra charge.
   a. Acceptance into voice lessons for credit is dependent on registration for choir and approval of the voice division chair. You must be in choir to begin lessons.
   b. If you wish to continue lessons past your first semester but cannot schedule choir, you may take lessons for one semester without being in choir, subject to approval by the chair of the voice division and your choir director. You can take lessons privately for no credit at any time. To do this, you should make arrangements with your teacher.
   c. Exceptions to choir requirement in 1a. above are performing arts majors and minors, music minors, non vocal music majors, and others with special approval by the voice chair.

2. **490F Description:**
   a. Acceptance into 490F is subject to approval by the chair of the voice division. You must be in a choir or satisfy 1c. above. You must have studied voice for 4 semesters.
   b. Course requirements are the same as item 4 below but with an increased repertoire requirement. You will be expected to memorize three songs for your final for 1 credit or five songs for 2 credits. Also, for 2 credits you will be required to sing a faculty jury and have the additional option of participating in the final studio recital.

3. **A-F Grading system:**
   a. Two unexcused absences from lessons drops grade one letter. Each additional unexcused absence drops the grade an additional grade and 5 unexcused absences results in a failing grade. Two unexcused absences from seminar will result in drop of 0.5 grade.
   b. Lack of practice and preparation for lessons and seminars will have a negative effect on the grade.
   c. Final Voice Jury is 1/3 of your total grade.

4. **Course requirements:**
   a. **Attendance** at lessons on a weekly basis and seminars as scheduled. 14 lesson max. and attendance at weekly seminars.
   b. **Repertoire:** Preparation of 2, 3 or more songs, at least one in a foreign language (Italian, French, German, Latin, or Spanish). Performing arts majors or minors will usually have the foreign language requirement waived.
   c. **Formal practice:** Practice rooms are provided in the basement of the music building. Any unlocked practice room is available for your use. Develop a schedule for practicing. You will not progress if you do not practice. Keep notes on lesson procedures and recreate these in practice sessions. You are welcome to record your lesson and use the recording during your practicing. You will be graded on your preparation for class.
   d. **Seminar attendance:** Weekly seminars are held as an integral part of this class. You will sing songs that you are preparing in your lesson and receive constructive help from your colleagues. Attendance at one seminar per week is required. Seminars are held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons at 5 pm. You can attend either or both each week.

5. **Juries:** Your final for this course will be one of the following: (See 2b. for 490F jury)
   a. **Final Recital** on an evening of finals week to be determined. Public performance of two songs, one of which must be memorized. You may invite friends, and family to this recital.
   b. **Voice Jury:** performance of one memorized song for voice faculty.
   c. **Private Jury:** final performance for Mr. Tener in the final lesson of the semester.
d. **Final Seminar:** Performing arts majors and minors will sing a final seminar during finals week. This seminar is usually on Thursday afternoon of finals week, subject to student availability. Requirement: two songs, one of which is memorized.

e. Those receiving 2 credits for lessons will prepare 3 songs with 2 memorized.

6. **Absences, Excuses, Make-ups:** (I adhere to these rules without exception!)

   a. **Basic:** Your contract is for maximum of 14 lessons of approx. 25-30 minutes in length.

   b. **Sick Leave for Instructor:** Your instructor may need to be absent due to sickness. While he will make every effort to make up these lessons, you can assume that you may be required to absorb one sickness absence which will not be subject to a make up lesson.

   c. **Make Up Lessons:** The music dept. does not require teachers to make up student absences. In this studio you will receive one make up lesson for your excused absences each semester. You may switch with another student during the week of your absence. There are no make up lessons for missed make up lessons, no matter what the reason.

   d. **Excused absence:** is an absence because of illness, family emergency, class conflict, or other acceptable reason **AND** is preceded by communication to the teacher in advance of the student's lesson. (Phone call, voice mail, email, or text are acceptable. I do check the phone briefly during lessons.)

   e. **Unexcused absence** is an absence for a reason that is not considered adequate (oversleeping, studying, forgetting lesson, going home for the holidays early, etc.) **AND/OR** a lesson that is missed and no contact is made in advance of the scheduled lesson time.

   f. **Sickness:** If you are sick, call, text, or email in advance to cancel. If a student attends a lesson while sick, I reserve the right to cancel the lesson and send you home. This protects your voice and my health.

   g. **Contact Info:** The following phone should be used to communicate with Mr. Tener:

      Studio Phone: 294-6096  Cell phone (voice or text): 515-291-5494

      E-mail address: jtener@iastate.edu

7. **Books & Materials:** Students are not required to purchase books. If the student wishes to buy a particular book, I will help you find it. Bring assigned songs, vocalises, and a note book to each lesson. Performing arts students are expected to build a repertoire notebook.

8. **E-Mail:** All class communication outside of studio will be handled by e-mail. **You are required to check your e-mail daily and respond when a reply is required.** Lesson schedules, make up lessons, special announcements, jury rehearsals, final exam arrangements, etc. will be handled by e-mail. If I am sick or will be absent I will send an email to announce that fact.

9. **Solos:** If you are asked to sing solos at church, at a club, for an audition, for a show, for a wedding or funeral, etc. bring the song(s) to your lesson and we will work on them. Bring solos from ISU choir selections or shows to prepare for auditions, also. Solo opportunities can count toward your repertoire requirement.

10. **Website:** This class has a website which includes copies of the syllabus, jury information sheets, the lesson schedule, information about your teacher, etc. The address is: www.music.iastate.edu/faculty/tener/tener.htm.

11. **Accompanist:** Your teacher usually accompanies for your final but you can use an accompanist of your choice, subject to teacher approval.

12. **Special notice:** Yell Like Hell. Students in this studio are not to participate in this activity as it can cause serious damage to the vocal cords. If you feel you must participate, mouth the words. Show this syllabus to your leaders, as well.

13. **Students with Special Needs:** Please address any special needs or special accommodations with the instructor at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs so that we can work together to support your learning. Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you feel you have a disability that requires accommodation you need to obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Disability Resource Office (294-6624) located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.