Necessary Eleven Steps to Tech Startup at NYIT: A Review

By Inaya Syed

When I saw the poster for NESTS two semesters ago, I immediately emailed my academic advisor, wondering if the credit will count as a STEM elective towards my degree. As a mechanical engineering major, you rarely find professors that care as much about a topic as you do. Dr. Peter Goldsmith, an accomplished founder of LISTnet and professor, runs the class currently.

This class is nothing like we have ever seen before at NYIT. Instead of being solely lectured by Dr. Goldsmith, one is introduced to industry leaders, who are eager to share their experience and knowledge with the class.

Instead of the syllabus being organized by Dr. Goldsmith, Dr. Goldsmith has his teaching assistants, Ryan Ahmed and Pari Patel, founders of niura.io, aiding him, ready to help whenever they can. When I missed a class due to a family emergency, Dr. Goldsmith emailed me directly, asking if everything was okay. That just proves how much he pays attention to the students’ needs.

As someone who got a patent approved for the class and myself, they really make sure you are on track with their weekly assignments and weekly progress checks. Flyoff was something special, with the Dean of College of Engineering and Computing Sciences, Dean Babak Behesthi, judging all the startups himself, alongside industry professionals.

To finalize this review, NESTS is a great resource and class that introduces you to industry leaders, keeps you on track with setting up a startup, and takes care of three credits! I am proud to be part of the first cohort of NESTS, and recommend it to many of my peers. NESTS is good if you want to start a business. I highly recommend the course for anyone who does not like traditional class formats.

