

DIAMONDS 200 – TOPICS IN DIAMOND EVALUATION

Intensive Diamond Grading



Syllabus

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Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to Diamonds 200! This course is designed to put you on a path toward becoming a diamond professional. It will do this by teaching about the physical properties of diamonds and linking those properties to their value. The class will emphasize the means of evaluating diamonds that determine monetary value. In that aim, we focus on the 4 C's of diamonds, and offer instruction in how to independently ascribe cut, color and clarity grades on stones. The best way to learn this craft is through doing, and therefore we will attempt to fill as many lab hours into class as time permits.

This class will quickly move through the basics of diamonds and delve into more advanced concepts. During this class, we will also introduce topics such as diamond simulant and treatment detection. Like the 4 C's, these are essential features of diamond valuation and are important skills to any diamond professional. While it is not expected of you to become fluent in these concepts over night, you should be aware that such practices exist and learn the proper techniques for differentiation.

The *Diamonds 200* class is designed to put you on a path toward becoming industry professionals. In that regard, learning correct industry terms and practices is stressed throughout the class. This includes learning all the parts of the stone, correct industry terminology, inclusion types, how to read a diamond report, how to use price sheets, etc.

Most importantly, we will try to make diamond grading and evaluation fun. Any career should be something that one enjoys. This course will be conducted with the aim of matching trade professionalism with personal enthusiasm for the craft of diamonds and the jewelry industry more broadly.

Course Goals

- Be able to accurately ascribe color and clarity grades to diamonds
- Ability to assess aspects of a diamond's cut
- Be knowledgeable of legal norms for the diamond and jewelry industry
- Be knowledgeable of the properties of diamonds and simulants
- Be able to detect treatments performed on diamonds

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Class Format

DAY 1: Introduction and Review of Basic Diamond Concepts

LECTURE

- Properties of diamond
- Parts of the stone
- Diamond grading techniques and methods
 - loupe, tweezers mechanics, handling parcel papers, etc.

LAB SESSION

- Stone orientation
- Handling methods

Part 2: Introductory Clarity Grading

LECTURE

- Types of inclusions
- Clarity grading – the five factors

LAB SESSION

- Reading, using and writing plot diagrams
- Grading for clarity using key terms
- Properly seeing inclusions

DAY 1: Practical Clarity Grading

LECTURE

- Reviewing clarity characteristics
- Working with mounted stones

LAB SESSION

- Grading clarity

DAY 1: Advanced Concepts in Clarity Grading: Simulants and Treatments

LECTURE

- Treatments, enhancements, and modifications to a stone
- Diamond simulants

LAB SESSION

- Continue clarity grading
- Working with fracture filled and laser drilled stones
- Moissanite, CZ, Colorless Topaz, Colorless Sapphire, YAG, etc.

DAY 2: Introductory Color Grading

LECTURE

- Color grading theory

LAB SESSION

- How to use a diamond tray
- How to use masterstones
- Head loupe
- Grading color with color memory

DAY 2: Advanced Color Grading, Cut Evaluation

LECTURE

- Color altering treatments
- The trouble of fluorescence
- The relationship between cut, angles and color
- Fancy color diamonds

LAB SESSION

- Assessing polish and symmetry
- Full grading

DAY 3: Cut continued; Professionalism in the Industry

LECTURE

- Light performance
- Through the cutter's eye

LAB SESSION

- Assessing the cut of a diamond
- Weight estimation on mounted stones

Part 2: Legal norms

- federal (FTC) and local (ordinances specifically pertaining to Chicago)

DAY 3: Grading mounted diamonds

LECTURE

- Weight estimation of mounted jewelry
- Grading stones in the mounting

DAY 4: Advanced Treatments and Lab Grown Diamonds

LECTURE

- A discussion on the prevalence of lab grown stones
- HPHT treatment
- Full Grading

Part 2: A discussion of value and the wholesale market

- Looking at Rapnet, Polygon, Etc.

DAY 4: Recap of Concepts

- Full grading

Required Reading

Tashey, Myriam and T. Eitan Tashey. *The World of Diamonds, Revised 3rd Edition*. Professional Gem Sciences Laboratory, 2014. (supplemental course literature).

Instructors reserve the right to add, delete, or otherwise change this syllabus.