

DIAM200 – INTERMEDIATE TOPICS IN DIAMOND EVALUATION

Intensive Diamond Grading

Winter 2013 Syllabus
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Course Description and Objectives

This course will build upon an established base-knowledge of diamonds and gemological practices. It will particularly emphasize the means of evaluating diamonds that determine monetary value. In that aim, we will focus on the 4 C's of diamond grading, and offer instruction in how to independently grade for cut, color and clarity. 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.

During this class, we will also introduce advanced concepts like diamond simulant and treatment detection. Like the 4 C's, these are essential features of diamond valuation and are essential skills to any diamond professional. While it is not expected that the student will become fluent in these concepts over night, s/he should be aware that such practices exist and should 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 the parts of the stone, various 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 as fun as possible. 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 clarity grades to stones
- Be able to make accurate color grades

- 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

Prerequisites for this Course

- Some knowledge of terminology relevant to diamonds and the industry (crown, pavilion, girdle, table, carat, etc.)
- Knowledge of terminology relevant to stone inclusions (feather, crystal, cloud, natural, etc.)

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

DAY 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 3: Practical Clarity Grading

LECTURE

- Reviewing clarity characteristics
- Working with mounted stones

LAB SESSION

- Grading clarity

DAY 4: Advanced Concepts in Clarity Grading

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 5: Introductory Color Grading

LECTURE

- Color grading theory

LAB SESSION

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

DAY 6: Advanced Color Grading, Cut Evaluation

LECTURE

- Terms and practices
- The trouble of fluorescence
- The relationship between cut and color
- Fancy color diamonds

LAB SESSION

- Assessing polish and symmetry
- Full grading

DAY 7: Cut continued; Professionalism in the Industry

LECTURE

- Light performance
- Through the cutter's eye

Part 2

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

LAB SESSION

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

DAY 8: Recap of Concepts

- Full grading

DAY 9: Recap of Concepts

- Cumulative in-class review

DAY 10: Exit Exam

- EXIT EVALUATIONS

Required Reading

Tashey, T. Eitan. *The World of Diamonds, Revised 2nd Edition*. Professional Gem Sciences Laboratory, 2012 (supplemental course literature).

Further Reading

Bray, Bill. *The Handbook of Diamond Tips: Jewelers and Dealers Frequently Asked Questions*. Morris Publishing, 2011.

Bruton, Eric. *Diamonds*. Chilton Book Company, 1979.

Liddicoat, Richard T. *Handbook of Gem Identification*. GIA Press, 1993.

Matlins, Antoinette and Jill Newman. *Jewelry & Gems at Auction: The Definitive Guide to Buying & Selling at the Auction House & on Internet Auction Sites*. Gemstone Press, 2002.

Roskin, Gary. *Photo Masters for Diamond Grading*. Glenview, IL: Gemworld International Incorporated, 1994.

Shigley, James E. *Gems & Gemology in Review: Treated Diamonds*. GIA Press, 2008

Shigley, James E. *Gems & Gemology in Review: Synthetic Diamonds*. GIA Press, 2008

Tashey, Thomas E. *The World of Color*. Gem Quality Institute Press, 1994.

Tashey, Thomas E. *Gem Quality Index*, appearing in “Gems and Gemology.” Fall 1999.

Tashey, Thomas E. *Recommendations for Advancing the Color Science of Gemology*, appearing in “Gems and Gemology.” Summer 2011.

Course Expectations/Assessment

Prompt attendance for all courses is stressed. This will be an intensive course disbursed over a short number of days. For that reason, we will move very fast and cover a significant amount of information in a short period. Attendance at all classes is highly encouraged for best results. If for some reason you are not able to attend a course, please notify the instructor prior to missing the class session and a make-up class can be scheduled.

Students must read all of the supplemental materials for the course. The required text will help reinforce and elaborate upon concepts covered in lab sessions and lectures. Additional handouts may be assigned. Any assigned materials should be thoroughly covered for the day that they are assigned.

On the last day of class we will take an exit evaluation that test to see whether you demonstrate mastery of the concepts learned throughout the class. This will be given one time. Satisfactory marks on the exit exam will receive a letter of completion attesting that the student meets all the criteria for passing the course. If you do not pass the exit exam you will have the option of retaking the exam at a future date.

Students may schedule additional post-course tutoring. This can be scheduled after weekday business hours and on a special needs basis.

We look forward to having a bright and exciting class together. Welcome to the world of diamonds!!

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