Geochemical, mineralogical and economic aspects of the noble metals: platinum-group elements and gold
by Federica Zaccarini and Carl Nelson

PROGRAM
* Geochemical behavior of Os, Ir, Ru, Rh, Pt, Pd and Au and their analytical techniques
* Hosting minerals: genetic aspects in magmatic and post-magmatic stages
* Illustration of the main mineral deposits, their genesis and economic importance
* Birth, development, risk and benefits of Junior Companies, from an economic geology point of view
* Laboratory: identification of mineral phases under reflected light microscopy

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The course will end with an illustration of the principal deposits, both primary and related to placers, economic and sub-economic, of the platinum group elements associated with stratiform and podiform chromitites and Ni-Fe-Cu sulfides. Several deposits of hydrothermal, epitermal, and detrital gold, mainly located in Latin America, will be widely described with particular regard to their economic aspects. Genetical models of the gold deposits, based on the available geochronological data combined with the geodynamic evolution of the Caribbean area, will be presented. The various processes of starting and further development of the so-called Junior Companies, as well as their risks and benefits, will be illustrated from a point of view provided by an economic geologist.