

Topic for practical classes
HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD

Topic 1: Introduction. The first state formations on the territory of Belarus

1. Introduction of an educational discipline.
2. The state as the main political institution. The stages of development of the Belarusian statehood.
3. Ancient Rus. The Polotsk and Turov principalities.
4. Baptism of Rus as a factor of civilizational choice.
5. Feudal fragmentation of the East Slavic lands.

Topic 2: The Grand Duchy of Lithuania: a multiethnic feudal state in Eastern Europe

1. Causes and main concepts of the emergence of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
2. Features of the internal and external political development of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania
3. The Union of Lublin: causes, conditions, political significance.
4. The position of the Belarusian lands in Rzecz Pospolita.
5. Relations with the neighbours and the weakening of the Rzecz Pospolita.

Topic 3: Belarus in Russian Empire

1. Divisions of Rzecz Pospolita. Russification and depolonization.
2. Social and political life. Uprisings in Belarus in 1830-1831 and in 1863-1864.
3. Economic development of the Belarusian lands in the 2nd half of the 19th century.
4. Features of social and political life in the 2nd half of the 19th century.
5. Revolutionary events in 1905-1907 in Belarus.
6. "Nasha Niva" and the Belarusian national idea in the early 20th century.

Topic 4: Nation-state building in 1917-1941.

1. World War I.
2. Revolutions in 1917 and the Belarus issue. All-Belarusian Congress in 1917.
3. Proclamation of the BPR (Belarusian People's Republic). Creation of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Soviet Lithuanian-Byelorussian Republic.
4. Polish-Soviet war and Belarusian statehood.
5. Western Belarus during 1921-1939.
6. Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
7. The development of the BSSR in the pre-war period.

Topic 5: The Great Patriotic War – a key event in modern history

1. Causes, nature and periodisation of the Second World War.
2. Reunion of Western Belarus and BSSR.
3. Nazi Germany's attack on the USSR. Occupation regime in Belarus.
4. Nazi genocide and demographic losses of Belarus in the war.
5. The defining victories of the Red Army during the war.
6. Liberation of Belarus. The Belarusian strategic offensive operation "Bagration".

7. Contribution of the Belarusian people to the victory. The Great Patriotic War in the historical memory of the Belarusians.

Topic 6: Reconstruction and post-war modernization of the BSSR

1. Economic recovery of the BSSR in the first post-war decade.
2. Features of socio-political life in the second half of the 1940s and first half of the 1960s.
3. Education and culture in the 1950s and 1960s.
4. Stagnation in the 1970s - first half of the 1980s.
5. Perestroika. Social and political processes in the BSSR at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s.

Topic 7: Stages in the development of an independent Republic of Belarus

1. Proclamation of the Republic of Belarus. The collapse of the USSR and its causes.
2. Political and economic crisis in the first years of independence.
3. Formation of the state power and administration system.
4. Peculiarities of socio-political development in the beginning of XXI century.
5. Modern achievements of the Belarusian state.

Topic 8-9. The Constitution as the basic law of the state. The President of the Republic of Belarus.

1. The Constitution as the basic law of the state. The President of the Republic of Belarus.
2. Formation of legal traditions in Belarus in the XII-XIX centuries.
3. Constitutions of the Soviet period and their role in the system of society and state development.
4. Characteristics of legal documents of the first half of the 20th century.
5. Constitution of the Republic of Belarus of March 15, 1994 with amendments.
6. Development of the institution of the head of state in the Russian history.
7. Presidential republic - election of the president of the Republic of Belarus.
8. Functions and powers of the president of the Republic of Belarus.
9. The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus.

Topic 10. Government. Legislative and judicial branches of power

1. Historical forms of executive power in Belarus (10th - 20th centuries). 2.
2. Structure, functions and tasks of the Government of the Republic of Belarus. Powers of the prime minister.
3. Evolution of legislative representation in Belarus (veche, sejm, state дума, supreme soviet).
4. Structure and functions of the bicameral parliament of the Republic of Belarus.
5. Historical forms of judicial bodies in Belarusian history. Types and powers of modern courts in the Republic of Belarus.

Topic 11: Ethnogenesis of the Belarusians. State symbols of Belarus.

1. Basic hypotheses about the origin of the Belarusians. The stages of formation of the Belarusian nation.
2. Scientific conception of the name origin: Belaya Rus - Belorussia - Belarus.

3. The meaning of the Anthem, Emblem and Flag for the statehood, and the historical symbols of Belarus.
4. History and symbolic meaning of the State Flag and the State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus.
5. The state holidays of Belarus and their importance for the modern society.

Topic 12. Socio-economic model of modern Belarus

1. The causes and stages of formation of the Belarusian model of socio-economic development.
2. The nature, directions and key factors of Belarus' economic development.
3. Key economic fundamentals of the Belarusian economy.
4. The social achievements and dominating trends of the contemporary social policy of the Republic of Belarus.
5. All-Belarusian People's Assembly - the supreme representative body of Belarus (1996 - 2022).

Topic 13. Belarus in the geopolitical space

1. The geopolitical factor of the formation of the Belarusian statehood.
2. Characteristics of the contemporary geopolitical position of Belarus, integration processes.
3. Nature and trends of Belarusian foreign policy. Russia and China as strategic partners.
4. Stages of formation and main tendencies of development of the Union State of Russia and Belarus.
5. The Republic of Belarus in the system of contemporary international relations.