

Topics for Lectures and Practical Classes

Introduction in the course « The History of Belarus in the context of the World Civilization»

1. introduction. Structure of the Course «The History of Belarus in the context of the World Civilization».
2. Methodology and Periodization of the History of Belarus.
3. Concept of a Civilization. Formational and Civilization's Theories of Development of Society.
4. Short Belarusian Historiography .Main Belarusian Schools of Historiography.
5. Concept of a Historical Source. Classification of Historical Sources. Source Studies History of Belarus.

Formation of the Belarusian Nation

1. First Inhabitants of the Belarusian Lands. Slavs and Balts.
2. Origin of the name «Belarus». Theories that Explain the Origin and Meaning of the Country's Name. *Economical and Political Aspects of Formation of the Belarusian Nation in the XIV – XVIII centuries**.
3. Eastern Slavic basis of the Grand Principality of Lithuania. *The role of Orthodox, Catholics and Uniat Churches in the Formation of the Belarusian Nation**. Culture and Enlightenment in the IX-XVIII centuries.
4. Awakening of Nationalities and the Rise of Nationalism Movement in the XIX century. Ideas of Belarusian National Revival at the Beginning of the XX century.

State Formation on the Belarusian Lands in the IX-XVIII centuries

1. Prehistory and History of the First State Formations on the Belarusian Lands. *Kiev Russ**. Polotsk and *Turov Principalities**.
2. Creation of the Grand Principality of Lithuania. Internal and External Policy of the Grand Principality of Lithuania.
3. Political System and Administration in the Grand Principality of Lithuania.
4. Socio-economic Development of the Belarusian Lands in the Grand Principality of Lithuania.
5. Union of Lublin. Political System in Rzecz Pospolita. *Economic Conditions of the Life of the Belarusian People in the XVII-XVIII centuries**.
6. Political Crisis of Rzecz Pospolita. Divisions of Rzecz Pospolita.
7. Survey of Cultural Trends on the Belarusian Lands during the Renaissance the Age of Enlightenment.

Position of the Belarusian lands in the Russian Empire (at the end of the XVIII century – October of 1917)

1. Belarusian Lands in the Russian Empire. *Political and Social and Economic Development of the Belarusian Lands in the first part of the XIX century**. Belarusian Lands during the Napoleonic War (1812).
2. The Impact of Revolt of 1863-1864 on the Russian Politics on the Belarusian Lands.
3. Populism Movement in Belarus. Revolution in 1905-1907.
4. *First World War and Belarus**.
5. Overturn of February 1917 and Great Revolution.

Soviet Socio-Political System in Belarus (October 1917-June 1941)

1. Role of October Revolution in Russia in the History of the Belarusian People. The Struggle Against Germans Invaders.
2. Formation of the Belarusian State in 1917-1920: Foundation of the Belarusian People's Republic - Belarusian Democratic Republic. Foundation for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR) and Soviet Lithuanian-Byelorussian Republic.
3. Development of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. New Economic Policy (NEP), Industrialization and Collectivization in BSSR. Political Repressions of 1930th.
4. Geopolitical Position of the Belarusian State in the 20th-30th. Treaty in Riga. *Socio-Political, Economic and Cultural Position of Western Belarus during 1921-1939**. Belarusian Movement in Western Belarus in the 20th-30th of the XX century.
5. *Policy of Belarusianization**. Culture and Science in 1930th in the BSSR. The Bolshevik Anti-Religious Terror.

Belarus during the World War II and the Great Patriotic War

1. Beginning of the World War II. Reunion of Western Belarus and the BSSR in 1939-1941.
2. First Days of the Great Patriotic War. The German-Fascist Occupation Regime on the Territory of Byelorussia.
3. *Liberating Battles of the Red Army (Moscow Battle, the battle of Stalingrad and Kursk)** and their Influence on the Partisan and Underground Movement.
4. Liberation of Byelorussia. Operation «Bagration».
5. *End of the World War II and Results for Belarus**.

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1945-1991

1. Geopolitical Changes after the World War II. Cold War. *Crisis of Socialist Block System**.
2. Economic Recovery. Specialization of Industry. Perestroika («Restructuring»). The Disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant and its Results. Economic Crisis in BSSR and USSR at the end of the 80th.
3. Socio-Political Life in Byelorussia in the second part of the XX century. Social and Economic Life of Belarus in 50-80s years of the XX century.
4. *Education, Science and Culture in the BSSR **.

Sovereign Republic of Belarus at the end of XX – beginning XXI century

1. The Events of August 1991 in USSR and BSSR. Creation of the Republic of Belarus. Denunciation of the Soviet Union Treaty of 1922. Establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
2. Formation of Political System and Governing in the Republic of Belarus. Adopting the Constitution in 1994. Presidential Elections. Constitutional Crisis, the 1996 Referendum and its Results.
3. Economic Crisis. Realisation of «Belarusian Economic Model».
4. Geopolitical position of the Republic of Belarus. Foreign Policy of the Republic of Belarus. *Belarus-Russia Relations. **
5. Education. Science. Culture in the Republic of Belarus.

** Supervised Self-Independent Work Questions*