

History of Belarus

Objectives and tasks of the discipline

Basic goals of the course of History of Belarus are the following

- Introduce students to history, customs and traditions of Belarus
- Describe the components of the Slavic civilization, and explain what common historical denominators this civilization have in common with others world civilizations
- Describe students the major problems of political, social, and economic and cultural development of Belarus as well as the Belarusian history since settling the territory of modern Belarus, formation of the first states on the territory of the Republic such as Polotsk and Turov Principality and the further development of statehood in the Grand Principality of Lithuania, processes which were passing on the territory of Belarus at the times of Rzecz Pospolita, the Russian empire and the Soviet Socialist Republics' Union; development and formation of independent of Belarus.
- Students will gain a better understanding of historic events, the cause-and-effect relationships in history, and the relationship of current events to history.
- Students will understand others through understanding their historical experiences and be better prepared for the global events of the future.
- Students will develop critical thinking skills and analyze primary sources in investigating history from multiple perspectives.

The main objectives for students are:

- Explain historiographical differences and research methodologies, and competing theories of causality and interpretation.
- Compare and contrast the historical development of various civilizations and the reasons for their evolution. Explain the social, political, economic, cultural and gender history of Belarus
- Analyze and ascribe historical causality of why things happened and the way that they did.
- Apply knowledge of historical theory and causality to analytical research papers that focus on explaining or solving some historical problem.

Knowledge

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Understand the elements of continuity and change in Belarusian history (How it changed from pre-modern to modern times).
- Gain an overall understanding of the historical contexts in which Belarusian culture, politics, economy est. change happened in the country.

Skills

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Constructing and evaluating arguments: using evidence to make plausible

Arguments

- Using documents and other primary data: developing the skills necessary

To analyze point of view and context, and to understand and interpret information

- Assessing continuity and change over time and over different world regions
- Understanding diversity of interpretations through analysis of context, point of view, and frame of reference
- Seeing global patterns and processes over time and space while connecting local developments to global ones
- Comparing within and among societies, including comparing societies' reactions to global processes
- Considering human commonalities and differences
- Exploring claims of universal standards in relation to culturally diverse ideas
- Exploring the persistent relevance of world history to contemporary developments