

CALENDAR-TOPIC PLAN FOR THE DISCIPLINE “HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD”

SEMINAR No.1

TOPIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE DISCIPLINE. THE FIRST STATE FORMATIONS IN BELARUS

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267814>

Homework assessment methods: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. Characteristic features of the political development of Polotsk and Turov principalities.
2. Socioeconomic development of the Belarusian lands in the 9th–13th centuries.
3. Christianization of the Belarusian lands.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Vseslav the Sorcerer, his role and significance in Belarusian history and culture.
2. The spiritual life of the Eastern Slavs in the early Middle Ages.
3. The spread of literacy.
4. Ancient Rus' as an early feudal state.
5. The Battle on the Nemiga River and its significance in the international relations of that time.
6. Feudal fragmentation: origins and results.
7. Polotsk and the Polotsk people in the 9th-13th centuries.
8. The Principality of Turov: Territory and Administration.

SEMINAR No.2

TOPIC: THE GRAND DUCHY OF LITHUANIA AS A POLYETHNIC FEUDAL STATE OF EASTERN EUROPE

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267829>

Homework assessment methods: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. The role of Belarusian lands in the construction and state development of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
2. The state and legal status of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the Union of Lublin.
3. The wars of the 17th–18th centuries and their consequences for the Belarusian lands.
4. The political crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. The relationship of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Order and the Golden Horde.
2. The Union of Krewo and the Westernization of socio-political institutions.
3. Magdeburg Law in Belarusian cities.
4. The Confessional Factor in the History of Belarusian Statehood during the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
5. The Union of Lublin and Changes in the Domestic Policy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
6. The Powers and Status of the Political Elite of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the Union of Lublin.
7. The "Dissident Question" and its Impact on the Weakening of the State.
8. Attempts at Reform in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a Step to Preserving the State.

SEMINAR No. 3

TOPIC: BELARUS AS PART OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267826>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

Questions:

1. Disunion of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Russian government policy in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
2. Socio-political movement. The uprisings of 1830-1831 and 1863-1864 in Belarus.
3. The Revolution of 1905-1907. "Nasha Niva" and the Belarusian national idea of the early 20th century.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. A. Mitskevich as a poet, publicist, public figure.
2. Ya. O. Narkevich-Yodka and his scholarly work.
3. Ya. K. Guten-Chapski, his life and work.
4. The emergence and development of Belarusian studies. The formation of the Belarusian literary language.
5. The rise of the national movement during World War I.

SEMINAR No. 4

TOPIC: NATIONAL STATE BUILDING IN 1917-1941

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267831>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

Questions:

1. World War I and the Rise of the National Movement in Belarusian Lands.
2. The Revolutions of 1917. The First All-Belarusian Congress of 1917. Proclamation of the Belarusian People's Republic. BSSR.
3. The Creation of an Industrial-Agrarian Republic.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. World War I in Belarusian Lands.
2. The Rise of the National Movement during World War I.
3. The Revolutions of 1917 and the Belarusian Question.
4. The Polish-Soviet War and the Second Proclamation of the USSR.
5. The Treaty of Riga and its Consequences for Belarusian Statehood.

SEMINAR No. 5

TOPIC: THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR AS A KEY EVENT IN MODERN HISTORY

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=270466>

Homework assessment methods: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. Territorial division of Belarus and the creation of the occupation administration apparatus. Economic policy.
2. The resistance movement.
3. Collaborationist authorities and their tasks.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Education and upbringing during the occupation.
2. Khatyn and its "sisters."
3. Death camps in Belarus.
4. The Minsk underground and its famous participants.
5. P. M. Masherov as a partisan commander.
6. Oral history of the war in Belarus.
7. Liberation of Belarus. Operation Bagration.
7. Ostarbeiters from Belarus and their tragedy.

SEMINAR No. 6

TOPIC: MEDICINE DURING THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

You can read more about this topic here:

Homework assessment: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. Childhood during war.
2. The activities of medical professionals in the underground.

Questions for the independent study:

1. Organization of medical care at the front.
2. Specific aspects of providing medical care in partisan conditions.

You can read more about this topic here:

Topics for reports and essays:

1. E. V. Klumov and his participation in the underground movement.
2. The participation of employees of the Minsk Medical Institute in the underground and partisan movement.
3. Childhood during the war and medical care.
4. Pharmaceutical work during the war. The heroism of pharmacy workers.
5. Medical and sanitary service in Belarus in 1941-1944.
6. Achievements and losses of Belarusian medicine during the war.

SEMINAR No. 7

TOPIC: RESTORATION AND POST-WAR MODERNIZATION OF THE BSSR

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=270467>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

Questions:

1. The BSSR is the founding country of the UN.
2. Socioeconomic Development of Belarus in the Late 1940s – Early 1980s
3. Education, science and culture in the second half 1940 - 1980s

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Sociopolitical Life of the BSSR in the 1970s – first half of the 1980s.
2. Pyotr Masherov – Head of the Communist Party of the BSSR.
3. Growing Environmental Problems in the BSSR, Including Those Associated with the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident.
4. The Soviet Healthcare System as an Element of Belarusian Statehood.
5. Famous Soviet Belarusian Doctors.
6. Belarusian Soldiers in the Afghan War.
7. Urban Development and Urban Life in the BSSR in the 1950s–1980s.
8. Andrei Gromyko as a Statesman and Diplomat.

SEMINAR No. 8

TOPIC: STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267456>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

A mandatory form of midterm assessment is a colloquium in the form of a written survey on Seminar Questions 1-8 (by variants).

Questions:

1. The Collapse of the USSR and Its Causes. Declaration of Sovereignty.
2. Changes in the System of Government.
3. Characteristics of Sociopolitical Development at the Beginning of the 21st Century.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. The Growing Crisis of the Soviet System. The Collapse of the USSR and the New Balance of Power on the Global Stage.
2. Formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Proclamation of the Republic of Belarus. Legislative and Legal Formation of the State Sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus.
3. The Presidential Form of Government. The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus.
4. Paths and Characteristics of the Formation of a Rule of Law State and Civil Society in Belarus. Formation of the Ideology of the Belarusian State.
5. The Place of the Republic of Belarus in Integration Processes in the Post-Soviet and Eurasian Space.

SEMINAR No. 9

TOPIC: CONSTITUTION AS THE BASIC LAW OF THE STATE. LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267454>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

Questions:

1. The Constitution of March 15, 1994, and the nature of the amendments made to it.
2. The National Assembly – the parliament of sovereign Belarus.
3. Courts in the Republic of Belarus.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Government Bodies in the Republic of Belarus.
2. Adoption of the Constitution and the First Presidential Election in the Republic of Belarus.
3. Referendums of 1995 and 1996, 2004, and their impact on stabilizing the situation in the country.
4. Formation of legal traditions in Belarus.
5. The Constitution as the fundamental law of the state.
6. Types and powers of modern courts in the Republic of Belarus.
7. Historical retrospective of the development of political parties and public associations in Belarus.

SEMINAR No.10

TOPIC: THE GOVERNMENT AS THE SUPREMANCIPAL EXECUTIVE BODY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

You can read more about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267835>

Homework assessment: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. The structure of the Government of the Republic of Belarus.
2. The presidential republic as the choice of the Belarusian people.
3. Functions and powers of the head of state.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. A presidential republic – the choice of the Belarusian people.
2. Functions and powers of the head of state as the guarantor of the Constitution, rights, and freedoms of citizens.
3. Transformation of forms of government in Belarus.
4. Functions and tasks of the modern government.
5. Pre-parliamentary forms of representation: the veche and the sejm.
6. The National Assembly as a continuation of the traditions of a bicameral parliament in sovereign Belarus.

SEMINAR No. 11

TOPIC: REGIONS OF BELARUS

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267447>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

The mandatory form of midterm assessment is a colloquium in the form of a written survey on questions from seminars 9-11 (by variants).

Questions:

1. Historical forms of administrative-territorial division in Belarusian lands.

Question for the independent study:

1. Modern administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Belarus.

Read more about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267447>

Form of control of the independent work: a control test from the etest.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Functions and powers of local government and self-government.
2. Administrative division of Belarusian lands during the Great Patriotic War.
3. Excursion potential of the Grodno region (Vitebsk region, Gomel region, Mogilev region, Minsk region, Brest region).
4. The city where I live and its history.
5. Natives of the city where I live and their contribution to the development of medical science (physics, mathematics, history, law, etc.)

SEMINAR No.12

TOPIC: ETHNOGENESIS OF BELARUSIANS AND THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "BELARUS"

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=267439>

Homework assessment: survey; reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. Key concepts of the origin of Belarusians. Stages of the formation of the Belarusian nation.
2. Origin of the name "Belarus."
3. Language as an attribute of statehood. Language policy in the Republic of Belarus.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Belarusian studies as a scientific field.
2. E. Karsky and his fundamental work "The Belarusians."
3. Features of Belarusian folklore.
4. Bilingualism and its role in the formation of Belarusian national identity.

SEMINAR No. 13

TOPIC: PEOPLES AND RELIGIONS OF BELARUS

You can read about this topic here:

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; tests.

Questions:

1. Ethnic and religious history of the Belarusian lands.
2. Confessional Policy of the Republic of Belarus at the Current Stage.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Belarusian National and Cultural Revival in the Early Twentieth Century.
2. "Nasha Niva" and its Role in the National and Cultural Revival.
3. Ethnic Composition of the Population of Belarus.
4. Confessional Composition of the Population of Belarus.

SEMINAR No.14

TOPIC: SOCIO-ECONOMIC MODEL OF THE COUNTRY. BELARUS IN THE GEOPOLITICAL SPACE

Read more about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=262447>

Homework control form: survey; Reports; essays; tests.

Questions:

1. Programs for the socio-economic development of the domestic economy.
2. Characteristics of the current geopolitical position of Belarus.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. Key factors in the current economic development of Belarus.
2. The role and significance of the All-Belarusian National Assembly in determining economic policy.
3. Socially oriented market economy: essence and methods of implementation.
4. The Belarusian healthcare system as a calling card of the country.
5. Belarus in integration communities.
6. Foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus at the present stage.
7. Globalization and Belarus.
8. Belarus's geopolitical environment: external challenges.
9. Multi-vector foreign policy.

SEMINAR No. 15

TOPIC: STATE SYMBOLS OF BELARUS

You can read about this topic here:

<https://etest.bsmu.by/mod/page/view.php?id=262445>

Homework control form: survey; reports; abstracts; essay; tests.

Mandatory midterm assessment – essay

Questions:

1. Historical symbolism in Belarusian lands.
2. The national emblem, flag, and anthem, and their semantic interpretations.

Topics for reports and essays:

1. The significance of the national anthem, coat of arms, and flag for statehood.
2. Coats of arms and flags of famous noble families of Belarus (the Radziwills, the Khreptovichs, the Sapiehas, the Oginskis, and others).
3. The coat of arms and flag of the city where I live, and their interpretations.
4. Variability of symbols in different countries.
5. Public holidays of the Republic of Belarus and their meaning.
6. The national anthem as a musical reflection of state tradition.

THEMATIC PLAN
«HISTORY OF THE BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD»

| Section (topic) name | Number of class hours | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | lectures (incl. SSIW) | practical (laboratory or seminars) |
| 1. The main stages of the Belarusian statehood development | 13,5 | 16 |
| 1.1. Introduction to the academic discipline | 1,5 | |
| 1.2. The first state formations on the territory of Belarus | | 2 |
| 1.3. The Grand Duchy of Lithuania as a multiethnic feudal state of Eastern Europe | 3 | 2 |
| 1.4. Belarus within the Russian empire | 1,5 | 2 |
| 1.5. National-state building in 1917-1941 | 1,5 | 2 |
| 1.6. The Great Patriotic War as a key event of modern history | 1,5 | 4 |
| 1.7. Restoration and post-war modernization of Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic | 1,5 | 2 |
| 1.8. Stages of development of the independent Republic of Belarus | 1,5 | 2 |
| 2. Fundamentals of the state structure of Republic of Belarus | 6 | 6 |
| 2.1. The Constitution as the Basic Law of the State | 1,5 | 1 |
| 2.2. Legislative and judicial branches of government | | 1 |
| 2.3. The government as the highest executive authority | 1,5 | 1 |
| 2.4. President of the Republic of Belarus | | 1 |
| 2.5. Political parties and public associations | 1,5 | 1 |
| 2.6. Regions of Belarus | 1,5 | 1 |
| 3. Belarus at the intersection of cultures civilizations | 4,5 | 8 |
| 3.1. Ethnogenesis of the Belarusians and the origin name «Belarus» | 1,5 | 1 |
| 3.2. Peoples and religions of Belarus | | 1 |
| 3.3. Socio-economic model of modern Belarus | 1,5 | 1 |
| 3.4. Belarus in the geopolitical space | 1,5 | 1 |
| 3.5. State symbols of Belarus | | 2 |
| Total hours | 24 | 30 |