

Calendar and thematic plan for the discipline “History of Belarusian Statehood”

Seminar Session No. 1

Topic 1.1.-1.2: Introduction to the Discipline. The First State Formations on the Territory of Belarus

You can read about this topic here.

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.1-1.2](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.1-1.2)

1. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 16-28

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The concepts of the state and statehood.
2. The Polotsk and Turov principalities — the first state formations.
3. Kievan Rus'. The Belarusian lands in the system of international relations.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. Concepts and theories of state formation.
2. Vseslav the Sorcerer: his role and significance in Belarusian history and culture.
3. The spiritual life of the Eastern Slavs in the Early Middle Ages.
4. Kievan Rus' as an early feudal state.
5. The Battle on the River Nemiga and its significance in the international relations of the period.
6. Feudal fragmentation: origins and consequences.
7. Polotsk and the people of Polotsk in the 9th–13th centuries.
8. The Turov Principality: territory and administration.

Seminar Session No. 2

Topic 1.3-1.4: The Grand Duchy of Lithuania as a historical form of Belarusian statehood. Belarus during the period of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569–1795).

You can read about this topic here.

2. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.3-1.4](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.3-1.4)

3. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 28-67

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The role of the Belarusian lands in the formation and development of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
2. The state and legal status of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the conclusion of the Union of Lublin.
3. “Szlachta democracy” and Polonization as factors in political and social life.
4. Belarus in the wars of the 17th–18th cen. The crisis of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. Relations between the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Teutonic Order and the Golden Horde.
2. The Union of Krewo and the westernization of socio-political institutions.
3. Magdeburg Law in the cities of Belarus.
4. The confessional factor in the history of Belarusian statehood during the period of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.
5. Powers and status of the political elite of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the Union of Lublin.
6. The “dissident question” and its impact on the weakening of the state.
7. Reform attempts in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a step towards preserving the state.

Seminar Session No. 3

Topic 1.5: Belarus within the Russian Empire.

You can read about this topic here.

1. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.5](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.5)

2. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 73-85

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. Changes in the socio-political life in the territory of Belarus after the partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
2. The uprisings of 1830–1831 and 1863–1864.
3. Western Russism and *kraevost'*; the activities of Belarusian narodniks (the journal *Homon*) and the formation of the national idea.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. A. Mickiewicz – poet, publicist, and public figure.
2. Ya. O. Narkevich-Iodko and his scientific work.
3. Ya. K. Guten-Chapsky: life and activities.
4. The emergence and development of Belarusian studies. The formation of the Belarusian literary language.
5. Belarus in the War of 1812.
6. The Ogiński Plan – an attempt to restore the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Seminar Session No. 4

Topic 1.6: Belarus in 1921–1941.

You can read about this topic here.

1. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.6](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.6)

2. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 90-105

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The creation of the USSR and the formation of the BSSR's borders.
2. Building an industrial-agrarian republic.
3. The Polish occupation of Western Belarus and the reunification of the Belarusian people.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. The creation of an industrial-agrarian republic and the contradictions in the development of the socio-cultural sphere in the BSSR in the 1930s.
2. The Treaty of Riga and its consequences for Belarusian statehood.
3. The transformation of the administrative-territorial division of the BSSR in the 1920s–1930s.
4. D. F. Prishchepov's agrarian policy.

Seminar Session No. 5

Topic 1.7: The Great Patriotic War is a key event in modern history.

You can read about this topic here.

1. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.7](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.7)

2. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 106-114

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The establishment of the occupation regime on the territory of Belarus.
2. The genocide of the Belarusian people. The Holocaust.
3. The resistance movement against the occupation authorities.

Questions for guided independent study within the lecture course:

1. The reunification of Western Belarus with the BSSR.
2. The participation of Belarusians in the key battles of the Great Patriotic War.
3. The contribution of the Belarusian people to the Victory.

Guided independent work is assessed with a test from the electronic methodological complex.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. Education and upbringing during the occupation.
2. Khatyn and its “sister” villages.
3. Death camps in Belarus.
4. The Minsk underground movement and its prominent participants.
5. The liberation of Belarus. Operation Bagration.
6. Ostarbeiters from Belarus and their tragedy.

Seminar Session No. 6

Topic 1.7: The Great Patriotic War is a key event in modern history.

You can read about this topic here.

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.7](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.7)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

Questions for discussion:

1. Medicine during the war years.
2. The contribution of the Belarusian people to the Victory.
3. The Great Patriotic War in the historical memory of the Belarusian people.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. E. V. Klumov and his participation in the underground movement.
2. The involvement of staff from the Minsk Medical Institute in the underground and partisan movements.
3. Childhood during the war and medical assistance.
4. Pharmacy practice during the war. The feat of pharmacy workers.
5. The medical and sanitary service in Belarus in 1941–1944.
6. Achievements and losses of Belarusian medicine during the wartime period.

Seminar Session No. 7

Topic 1.8: The Restoration and Post-War Modernization of the BSSR.

You can read about this topic here.

1. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.8](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.8)

2. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр . 114 – 124

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The BSSR as a founding member of the United Nations.
2. Socio-political processes in the BSSR in the 1940s–1960s.
3. Achievements and challenges in the BSSR during the 1970s.
4. The policy of perestroika.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. Socio-political life in the BSSR in the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s.
2. Pyotr Masherov — head of the Communist Party of the BSSR.
3. The growing environmental problems in the BSSR. The Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident.
4. The Soviet healthcare system as an element of Belarusian statehood.
5. Prominent Soviet Belarusian doctors.
6. Belarusian soldiers in the Afghan War.
7. Urban planning and city life in the BSSR in the 1950s–1980s.
8. Andrei Gromyko — statesman and diplomat.

Seminar Session No. 8

Topic 1.9: The Development of the Independent Republic of Belarus.

You can read about this topic here.

1. [https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 1.9](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%201.9)

2. Короленок, Людмила Григорьевна. История Беларуси = History of Belarus : Manual for the Medical Faculty for International Students (Course of studies in English) Гродно : ГрГМУ, 2018. - 144 с. Рр 124 – 138

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The proclamation of Belarus's sovereignty. The crisis of the early years of independence in the Republic of Belarus.
2. Stabilization of the situation in the late 20th century. Achievements of Belarus in the early 21st century.
3. Final session on the section "Key Stages in the Development of Belarusian Statehood".

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. The dissolution of the USSR and the new balance of power on the global stage.
2. The adoption of the Constitution and the first presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus.
3. The referendums of 1995, 1996, 2004, and 2022 and their impact on stabilizing the situation in the country.
4. Ways and specific features of building a rule-of-law state and civil society in Belarus. The formation of the ideology of the Belarusian state.

Seminar Session No. 9

Topic 2.1-2.2 : The Constitution as the Fundamental Law of the State. The Legislative and Judicial Branches of Power.

You can read about this topic here.

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 2.1-2.2](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%202.1-2.2)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The Constitution of March 15, 1994, and the nature of the amendments introduced to it.
2. The National Assembly — the Parliament of sovereign Belarus.
3. The judicial system in the Republic of Belarus.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. State governing bodies in the Republic of Belarus.
2. The formation of legal traditions in Belarus.
3. The Constitution as the Fundamental Law of the State.
4. Pre-parliamentary forms of representation: the vecha and the sejms.
5. Historical forms of the judicial system on the territory of Belarus.

Seminar Session No. 10

Topic 2.3-2.4: The Government as the Highest Body of Executive Power. The President of the Republic of Belarus.

You can read about this topic here

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 2.3-2.4](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%202.3-2.4)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The Council of Ministers: competence, and the procedure for the organization and operation of the Government.
2. The functions and powers of the Head of State.
3. The procedure for electing the President.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. The development of the institution of the Head of State in national history (9th–20th centuries).
2. The All-Belarusian People's Assembly: main areas of activity.
3. A presidential republic — the choice of the Belarusian people.
4. Ministries in the Republic of Belarus: main functions and tasks.
5. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus and his powers.

Seminar Session No. 11

Topic 2.6: The Regions of Belarus.

You can read about this topic here

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 2.6](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%202.6)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Mandatory form of interim assessment: a colloquium in the form of a written quiz on the topics of Seminars 9–11 (by variants).

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. Forms of territorial division in Belarus: history and modernity.
2. Final session on the section “Fundamentals of the State Structure of the Republic of Belarus”.

Questions for guided independent study within the lecture course:

1. The current administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Belarus.
2. Functions and powers of local self-government.

Form of assessment for guided independent study (GIS): a control test from the electronic educational and methodological complex

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. The excursion potential of the region where I live.
2. The history of the settlement where I live.
3. Notable natives of the settlement where I live and their contributions.

Seminar Session No. 12

Topic 3.1: The Ethnogenesis of the Belarusians and the Origin of the Name “Belarus”.

You can read about this topic here

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 3.1](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%203.1)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. Main hypotheses regarding the origin of the Belarusians.
2. Stages in the formation of the Belarusian nation. Belarusians in the world and the diaspora.
3. Versions of the origin of the name “Belarus”.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. The journal *Gomon* and its role in shaping the national identity of the Belarusians.
2. E. Karsky and his fundamental work *The Belarusians*.
3. Specific features of Belarusian folklore.
4. Bilingualism and its role in the formation of Belarusian national identity.

Seminar Session No. 14

Topic 3.3-3.4: The Socio-Economic Model of the Republic of Belarus. Belarus in the System of International Relations.

You can read about this topic here

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 3.3-3.4](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%203.3-3.4)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

1. The prerequisites for the formation of the Belarusian socio-economic model.
2. Principles and mechanisms of the Belarusian socio-economic policy.
3. Geopolitics and the multi-vector nature of Belarus's foreign policy.
4. Integration and strategic partnership.

Topics for presentations and term papers:

1. Key factors driving the current economic development of Belarus.
2. The role and significance of the All-Belarusian People's Assembly in shaping the country's economic course.
3. The healthcare system of Belarus as a hallmark of the nation.
4. Regionalization as a factor shaping the foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Belarus.
5. The development of the Republic of Belarus in the context of globalization processes.

Seminar Session No.15

Topic 3.5: The State Symbols and Holidays of the Republic of Belarus.

You can read about this topic here

[https://etest.bsmu.by/ History of Belarusian Statehood/ Topic 3.5](https://etest.bsmu.by/History%20of%20Belarusian%20Statehood/Topic%203.5)

Methods of homework assessment: oral questioning; presentations; term papers; tests.

Questions for discussion at the seminar:

Mandatory form of interim assessment: Written work (Term paper)

Sample essay topics:

List of topics for abstract preparation

1. The Principality of Polotsk was the first state on Belarusian lands in the 10th – 12th centuries.
2. Christianization of the Belarusian lands 10th – 13 th centuries.
3. Ancient Rus' – an early feudal state.
4. The Rogvolodovich dynasty – the first princely dynasty on the lands of Belarus.
5. Saint Euphrosyne of Polotsk is the heavenly patroness of Belarus.
6. Vseslav the Sorcerer, his role and significance in Belarusian history and culture.
7. Relations of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with the Order and the Golden Horde.
8. The Union of Kreve and the Westernization of socio-political institutions.
9. Magdeburg Law in the cities of Belarus.
10. The Union of Lublin and changes in the domestic policy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.
11. The importance of the Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of 1529, 1566, 1588 in the legal thought and culture of Belarus.
12. Francisk Skaryna is a Belarusian first printer.
13. The powers and status of the political elite of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania after the Union of Lublin.
14. Architecture of Belarus in the 17th-18th centuries.
15. The «dissident question» and its impact on the weakening of the state.
16. The policy of the Russian government in the 18th century - early 19th century in the annexed lands of Belarus.
17. Socio-political movements in Belarusian lands in the second half of the 19th century.
18. The war with Napoleon and Belarusian statehood (1812).
19. The abolition of serfdom in Belarus in the second half of the 19th century.
20. The revolution of 1905-1907. «Nasha Niva» and the Belarusian national idea of the early 20th century.
21. The Revolution of 1917 and its features on the territory of Belarus.

22. The First World War on Belarusian lands.
23. The Soviet-Polish war and the division of Belarus into western and eastern (1919 - 1921).
24. Industrialization and collectivization in the BSSR in the late 1920s and 1930s.
25. Defense of the Brest Fortress and the heroism of its defenders.
26. Attack of Nazi Germany on Belarus. Operation Barbarossa.
27. Occupation regime in the captured lands of Belarus.
28. Genocide of the Belarusian people.
29. Punitive operations on the lands of Belarus.
30. Medical and pharmaceutical experiments of the Nazis in the occupied territories.
31. Partisan and underground struggle in the occupied territories.
32. Liberation of Belarus from the German fascist invaders.
33. Medicine during the Great Patriotic War.
34. Preserving the memory of the Great Victory in Belarus at the present stage.
35. The BSSR is a founding country of the United Nations.
36. Modernization of the BSSR economy in the 50-70s of the 20th century.
37. Perestroika policy in the mid-80s of the 20 century.
38. Reasons for the collapse of the USSR.
39. The crisis of the first years of independence of the Republic of Belarus (early 90s of the 20 century).
40. Legislative and legal registration of the state sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus.
41. Adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus on March 15, 1994
42. Referendums of the Republic of Belarus and their importance in the formation of the political system. (1995, 1996, 2004)
43. The National Assembly is a bicameral parliament of modern Belarus.
44. The judicial system of the Republic of Belarus.
45. Formation of traditions of people's power in Belarus. All-Belarusian People's Congress.
46. Structure of the executive branch. Functions and tasks of the government of Belarus.
47. Presidential republic - the choice of the Belarusian people.
48. Functions and powers of the head of state.
49. Globalization for Belarus: state and prospects.
50. Characteristics of the modern geopolitical position of Belarus.
51. The Union of Belarus and Russia: history and modernity.
52. Christianity and Islam: the history of friendship in the Belarusian lands.
53. The capital of Belarus and its importance in the political and cultural life of Belarus.
54. Administrative division of modern Belarus.
55. Ethnic history of the Belarusian lands.
56. The main hypotheses about the origin of the Belarusians.
57. Confessional composition of the population of Belarus and religious policy at the present stage.

58. Traditional clothing of Belarusians.
59. Traditional Belarusian cuisine.
60. The role of personality in history.
61. Tourism potential of modern Belarus.
62. Modern State Emblem, Flag of Belarus and their meaningful interpretations.
63. State holidays and memorial days of contemporary Belarus.
64. The healthcare system is the brand of modern Belarus.
65. Intercultural relations of Belarus in the contemporary period.
66. Top 5 places to visit in Belarus.

Questions for discussion at the seminar

1. Historical symbolism in the Belarusian lands.
2. The national Coat of Arms, Flag, and Anthem and their semantic interpretations.

Topics for presentations and term papers

1. The significance of the national anthem, coat of arms, and flag for the formation of statehood.
2. Coats of arms and flags of prominent noble families of Belarus (the Radziwills, Khraplovichs, Sapiehas, Oginskis, etc.).
3. The coat of arms and flag of the city where I live and their interpretations.
4. The variability of symbols across different countries.
5. National holidays of the Republic of Belarus and their significance.
6. The national anthem as a musical reflection of folk traditions.