

Educational establishment  
«The Belarus State Economic University»

APPROVED

Rector of the educational establishment  
«Belarus State Economic University»

\_\_\_\_\_ V.N. Shimov

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Registration № УД \_\_\_\_\_ /уч.

**National Strategies of Transition Economies**  
Syllabus for Master's program  
Specialization 1-25 81 01  
«International Economics and Trade Policy»

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**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AS A BASE:**

Department of world economy of the  
Educational establishment «Belarus State Economic University»  
(protocol № 10 from 09.03.2017)

The scientific-methodical Council of the Educational establishment «Belarus State Economic University»  
(protocol № \_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_2017)

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## Explanatory note

The discipline “National Strategies of Transition Economies” is a vital part of studying the nature and trends of modern global economy. For students majoring in “World Economy” the course can be particularly important as it should facilitate in forming reasonably complete perception of economic, social and political developments in Belarus and other former socialist countries that began in the early 1990s. This should aid students to successfully apply their academic competence in future economic careers.

The course syllabus involves the study of both theoretical and practical issues related to National Strategies of Transition Economies. Major outcomes of postsocialist reforms will be scrutinized through a prism of mainstream approaches, with students expected to evaluate different practical models of transition. The transformation process in the Republic of Belarus will be given a special focus, in particular what concerns its features and prospects in the post-crisis global economy.

Course concept: “National Strategies of Transition Economies” will seek to utilize those parts of students’ knowledge of world economy, international economic relations, national economy of Belarus, political sciences, sociology and history, which can be applicable to economic, social and political reforms in former socialist countries.

Course objective: to reveal the essence of national strategies of transition economies by analyzing their theoretical underpinnings and practical outcomes, as well as to assess the sustainability of Belarus’ transition strategy in the context of globalization.

Course tasks:

- To define the notion of transition economics
- To set the time and geographical boundaries of transition economics
- To analyze the initial conditions of postsocialist transformation
- To establish the levels of public support for postsocialist transformation
- To study ideological and theoretical foundations of transition economics by scrutinizing the neoliberal and alternative approaches
- To analyze key dimensions of transition economics: liberalization, privatization and restructuring
- To review the social implications of transition economics
- To discuss the impact of globalization and global financial crisis on transition economies
- To characterize postsocialist transformation in the Republic of Belarus
- To define main features of Belarus’ transition model
- To evaluate the impact of globalization and global financial crisis on Belarus’ economy

Course outcomes

Upon completing the course students are expected to **know**:

- Main features of transition economics
- Key theoretical approaches to post-socialist transformation and their ideological foundations

- The logic of liberalization, privatization and restructuring
- The impact of transition on social sphere
- General outcomes of reforms and the methods of obtaining reliable additional data

- Extent of globalization impact on transition economies
- Consequences of global financial crisis for transition economies
- The nature of transformation process in the Republic of Belarus
- Main features of Belarus' transition model
- Impact of globalization and global financial crisis on Belarus

Additionally, students are expected to be **able to:**

- Distinguish different models of transition economics
- Classify former socialist countries in accordance with adopted models of transition

- Evaluate key theoretical approaches to postsocialist transformation based on practical outcomes of their implementation

- Establish globalization impact on different models of transition economics

- Appraise key advantages and shortcomings of Belarus' transition model taking into account available theory and practice

The discipline “National Strategies of Transition Economies” is based on the disciplines «Economic theory», «International economic relations» is studying during 116 hours, including 30 of lectures, 12 hours of face-to-face workshops.

# TRAINING MATERIAL CONTENT

## **Topic 1. Introduction to Transition economies**

Economic strategies of Developed and Developing countries. National strategies of Developed countries. National strategies of Developing countries. Definition of transition economics. Time framework and stages of transition economics. Geographical boundaries of transition economics. Classification of transition economics. Internal and external factors of transition economics.

Initial conditions of transition economics: statehood continuity, longevity of socialism, geography, level of human development, extent of liberalization, private property development.

## **Topic 2. Theoretical and ideological foundations of transition economics**

Academic debate on transition economics. Neoliberalism and “Washington consensus”. Theoretical alternatives to neoliberalism: evolutionary economics, institutionalism, social democracy. Evolution of academic debate on transition economics.

Main features of socialist pre-transition economics. Political economy models of transition. Transition economics in the context of post-socialist national strategies.

## **Topic 3. Transition economics in practice – national context**

Liberalization. Price mechanism in socialist economies. Monetary “overhang”. Liberalization and its consequences. Stabilization and its consequences. Macroeconomic regulation and financial institutions in transition economies.

Privatization. Theoretical foundations and different models of privatization in transition economics. Privatization in Russia. EU role in postsocialist privatization. Outcomes of privatization.

Restructuring. Concept of restructuring and World Bank model of “discipline and encourage-ment”. Restructuring in Russia and other ex-USSR republics. Restructuring in Central Europe, the Baltics and the Balkans.

Social sphere. Social indicators of socialist countries at the onset of transition. Impact of reforms on social sphere: changes in education and health status. Pension reform: experience of Russia and new EU members. Poverty and inequality during transition.

## **Topic 4. Transition economies in the context of globalization and global financial crisis**

Transition economics in the context of globalization. Globalization as a defining feature of contemporary international economic relations. Transition economics as a globalization imprint in Central and Eastern Europe. Microeconomic dimension of globalization in transition economies.

Impact of global financial crisis on transition economies. Causes and anatomy of the global financial crisis. Impact of the crisis on transition economies. Adapting to postcrisis economics – macro- and microeconomic peculiarities in transition economies.

## **Topic 5. National strategy of the Republic of Belarus as a transition economy**

Main features of Belarus' economy and social sphere. Main economic and social indicators of Belarus at the start of the transformation. Belarus' role in the international division of labor before and after 1991. Stages of postsocialist transformation in the Republic of Belarus. Belarus' economy at present.

Belarus' model of transition. Ideological and theoretical underpinnings of Belarus' transition model. Class in the context of Belarus' transition model. Impact of integration and external political pressure. Advantages and shortcomings of Belarus' transition model in comparative perspective.

Impact of globalization and global financial crisis on the national strategy of the Republic of Belarus. National competitiveness as an indicator of Belarus' adaptation to globalization. Microeconomic response to globalization: case-studies of Belarus' companies. Impact of global financial crisis on Belarus' economy and social sphere. Belarus' economic prospects in the post-crisis global economy.

**INDICATIVE THEMATIC PLAN**  
of the discipline «National Strategies of Transition Economies»

<b>Topic No.</b>	<b>Topic name, topic contents</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Seminars</b>	<b>Controlled student independent learning</b>	<b>Literature</b>	<b>Form of control</b>
1	2	3	4	5	7	8
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to Transition economies</b> 1. National strategies of Developed and Developing countries. 2. Concept of transition economics. 3. Initial conditions for transition.	<b>6</b>  4 1 1	<b>2</b>  - 2 -	-	1-12; 4, 11, 22	Quizzes, <b>Intermediate test №1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Theoretical and ideological foundations of transition economics</b> 4. Academic debate on transition economics. 5. Main features of socialist pre-transition economics.	<b>4</b>  2 2	<b>2</b>  - 2	-	1-12; 1-3, 12-17	Quizzes, group discussions
<b>3</b>	<b>Transition economics in practice – national context</b> 6. Liberalization. 7. Privatization. 8. Restructuring. 9. Social sphere/	<b>8</b>  2 2 2 2	<b>4</b>  - 2 2 -	-	1-12, 5-8, 18, 19	<b>Intermediate test №2</b>

<b>4</b>	<b>Transition economies in the context of globalization and global financial crisis</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	-	1-12; 23-29	Essay, group discussions
	10. Transition economics in the context of globalization.	2	-			
	11. Impact of global financial crisis on transition economies.	2	2			
<b>5</b>	<b>National strategy of the Republic of Belarus as a transition economy</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	-	13-14	Essay, group discussions, <b>Intermediate test №3</b>
	12. Main features of Belarus' economy and social sphere.	4	-			
	13. Belarus' model of transition.	2	2			
	14. Impact of globalization and global financial crisis on the national strategy of the Republic of Belarus.	2	-			
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>			

## INFORMATION AND METODIC PART

### **Methodical recommendations about the organization of independent work undergraduates on a discipline «National Strategies of Transition Economies»**

In mastering knowledge of a subject matter an important stage independent work of undergraduates is. The budget of time for independent work on average on 2-hour classroom occupation is recommended 1,5-2 hours.

Main directions of independent work of the undergraduate:

- initial acquaintance with the program of a subject matter;
- acquaintance with the list of the recommended literature, her studying and selection of additional literature;
- work with information sources, information search for the analysis transition economies;
- studying of materials of various databases of the international economic organizations and their official sites;
- studying and expansion of the material of lectures provided by the teacher at the expense of information from additional literature, consultations;
- preparation for seminar classes in specially developed plans with studying of the main and additional literature;
- preparation for the main forms of control (control poll, test, report, presentation, etc.);
- preparation of the computer presentations on single questions and subjects of a subject matter;
- preparation for examination.

### **The list of the recommended diagnostic aids of competences**

1. Oral forms of diagnostics of competences: interviews, polls, oral reports on seminar occupations, reports at conferences, estimation on the basis of a discussion.
2. Written forms of diagnostics of competences: tests, control polls, examinations, individual tasks, essay, publications of articles, reports.
3. Technical form of diagnostics of competences: electronic tests, presentations.

### **Literature**

#### ***Main:***

- 1 Turley, G. *Transition Economics: Two Decades On* / Gerard Turley, Peter Luke // Routledge, 2010. – 504 p.
- 2 Aslund, A., *How Capitalism Was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

3 Bargaining externalities in a privatization programme / John Bennett, James Maw // Economic of Transition and Institutional changes. – 2018.

4 Chronicles of a democracy postponed. Cultural legacy of the Russian transition / Elena Gaber, Leonid Polishchuk, Kharis Sokolov, Denis Stukal // Economic of Transition and Institutional changes. – 2018.

5 Dale, G. (ed.), *First the Transition, then the Crash: Eastern Europe in the 2000s*, London: Pluto Press, 2011.

6 Kolodko, G., *From Shock to Therapy: The Political Economy of Postsocialist Transformation*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

7 Kornai, J., *From Socialism to Capitalism*, Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2008.

8 A basic tool to assess tax administration strength in emerging Europe / Ernesto Crivelli // Economic of Transition and Institutional changes. – 2018.

9 Myant, M., *Transition Economies: Political Economy in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2011.

10 Roland, G. (ed.), *Economies in Transition: The Long-Run View*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

11 *Transition Report*, London: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 1911-2014

12 *Transition economies after the crisis of 2008: actors and policies* / guest editors: Martin Myant and Jan Drahekoupil. - Abingdon, Oxfordshire: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group: University of Glasgow, 2013. - C. [2], 374—570 – (Europe-Asia studies ; 0966-8136 ; vol. 65, № 3).

#### ***Additional:***

13 You say you want a (Rose) Revolution? The effects of Georgia's 2004 market reforms / Robert Lawson, Kevin Grier,

Samuel Absher // Economic of Transition and Institutional changes. – 2018.

14 Values, institutions and the rise of Eastern Europe / Gylfi Zoega, Edmund S. Phelps // Economic of Transition and Institutional changes. – 2018.

15 Ichimura, S., T. Sato, and W. James (eds.), *Transition from Socialist to Market Economies: Comparison of European and Asian Experiences*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

16 Marelli, E., and M. Signorelli (eds.), *Economic Growth and Structural Features of Transition*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

17 Mickiewicz, T., *Economics of Institutional Change: Central and Eastern Europe Revisited*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

18 Pickles, J. (ed.), *Varieties of Capitalism in Post-Communist Countries*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

19 Winiecki, J. (ed.), *Competitiveness of New Europe: Papers from the Second Lancut Economic Forum*, London: Routledge, 2009.