

## Vitebsk: Real and Popular History of the Native Town

The Department of History of Belarus of VSU named after P.M. Masherov and Vitebsk Regional Library named after V.I. Lenin in association with the club of historic re-enactment «Vargentorn» and Vitebsk news portal launch **free course** entitled «**Vitebsk: Real and Popular History of the Native Town**» which takes place at the library twice a month. The course is designed for everybody.

In recent years we began to notice the emerging and wide spreading of some pseudo-historical theories and inaccurate interpretation of the history of Vitebsk and Belarus in general. Modern means of communication allow everyone to share their thoughts and opinions about this or that event via the Internet virtually without any effort. There are even quite successful publishing projects that ease the promotion and rollout of pseudo-historical knowledge and theories which is a hallmark of upcoming commercialization of history. It's hard to step up and face this. However, we can and, more importantly, we need to do it.

What we are suggesting is to take a scientific approach on the history of the town, gleaning information from historical sources and their reviews. We don't shed bold theories if there are enough arguments behind them. However, it will be emphasized that all of them are just scientific hypothesis. Thus, this course will teach you the real history of our town.

Modern historical science is often accused of being highly theoretical and giving too much attention to details mainstream audience does not seem interested in. Therefore, the course's teaching staff also considers presenting the history of Vitebsk in a more popular form, sometimes even resorting to the pulp fiction narrative, which, as we hope, could spark the interest of the audience.

The course's sessions are taking place at Vitebsk Regional Library named after V.I. Lenin. The first session starts already on September 13, 2016 at 6 p.m. The topic of the lecture is «**Vitebsk in its pre-town period**» («Baltic Vitebsk»).

At the first couple of sessions we will talk about Vitebsk of the period when an ancient settlement of Baltic-Dnieper-Dvina culture was sitting on top of Lomikha hill. The sessions are expected to be attended by archaeologists and specialists in historical re-enactment of life and material culture of ancient Baltic peoples.

The next lecture, dedicated to the legendary founder of Vitebsk, Duchess Olga, is scheduled **for September 29, 2016**. In future, the lectures will be held **twice a month, on every second and fourth Thursday**. For more information visit our group in VK (<https://vk.com/histvitebsk>) and the websites of our partners.