***Practical session 1: The American continent in the pre-Columbian period. The discovery of America. Creation and decline of the Spanish colonial empire.***

1. Ancient cultures of America.

2. America through the eyes of Europeans. The discovery of America.

3. Columbian exchange: the influence of Europeans on America and America on Europe

4. The Spaniards in North America. The decline of the Spanish Empire in America.

Recommended reading

1. Шай Д. Е. Історія Америки (11-те видання). Львів: Літопис, 2022. 1112 с.
2. Історія Сполучених Штатів: Нарис / Ред. кол.: Говард Синкотта (гол. ред.), Дебора М.С. Браун, Стивен Бюрант; Перекл. на укр. Ю. Лісняк та ін. Інформаційне агентство Сполучених Штатів. 406 с. URL: <http://resource.history.org.ua/item/0009627>
3. [Рубель В](http://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/cgi-bin/irbis_nbuv/cgiirbis_64.exe?Z21ID=&I21DBN=EC&P21DBN=EC&S21STN=1&S21REF=10&S21FMT=fullwebr&C21COM=S&S21CNR=20&S21P01=0&S21P02=0&S21P03=A=&S21COLORTERMS=1&S21STR=%D0%A0%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%20%D0%92$). Історія цивілізацій Доколумбової Америки [Текст] : навч. посіб. для студ. іст. спец. вищих навч. закл. / В. А. Рубель. К. : Либідь, 2005. 503 с.

**Objective of the lesson:**

* To understand the peculiarities of the development of ancient cultures of the Americas.
* To analyze the impact of the discovery of America on European and American history.
* To assess the role of Spanish colonization and the reasons for the decline of the Spanish Empire.

**Practical cases**

**Case 1: Pre-Columbian cultures of the Americas**

**Situation:**  
You are a researcher studying pre-Columbian civilizations (Aztecs, Mayans, Incas). Your task is to compare their achievements in science, culture, and government.  
**Tasks:**

1. Name the main features of each civilization.
2. What factors contributed to the flourishing of these cultures?
3. Why did these civilizations decline before the arrival of Europeans?

**Case 2: The discovery of America and its consequences**

**Situation:**  
Imagine that you are an advisor to Queen Isabella of Castile. Christopher Columbus proposes his project of traveling to Asia across the Atlantic.  
**Tasks:**

1. Why did the royal court support Columbus' expedition?
2. What were the consequences of the discovery of America for Europe and indigenous peoples?
3. How would you evaluate Columbus' actions in terms of modern ethical standards?

**Case 3: The Columbian Exchange**

**Situation:**  
After the discovery of the Americas, an active exchange of goods, plants, animals, and microbes began between the Old and New Worlds.  
**Tasks:**

1. Name the main elements of the Columbian Exchange.
2. What was the impact of this exchange on the European and American economy, culture, and demography?
3. Why is the Columbian Exchange considered one of the most important events in world history?

**Case 4: The decline of the Spanish Empire**

**Situation:**  
In the early nineteenth century, the Spanish Empire in the Americas began to decline. You are a historian analyzing the reasons for this process.  
**Tasks:**

1. Name the main reasons for the decline of the Spanish Empire.
2. What role did internal problems in Spain and external factors play in this process?
3. What lessons can be learned from the history of the Spanish Empire for modern states?

**Discussion:**

* Can the discovery of the Americas be considered a positive development for indigenous peoples? Argue your opinion.

**Creative task:**

* Write an essay on the topic: “How would America have developed if Europeans had not discovered it in the fifteenth century?”