

# College English Curriculum Reform and Practice under the Background of Curriculum Ideological and Political Education

Peng Guo

College of Humanities, Liaoning Communication University, Shenyang, 110136, China

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**Abstract:** In recent years, one of the most important subjects of university curriculum reform in China has been ideological and political education. College English has become an increasingly important platform for ideological and political teaching at colleges and universities as a required course of general education due to its combined instrumental and humanistic aspects. This study examines the causes behind the lack of ideological and political education in college English teaching in China, and attempts to provide some effective and efficient new solutions to curricular ideological and political education in current college English teaching.

## 1. Introduction

According to the requirements of curriculum ideological and political education, all disciplines should make full use of their own subject characteristics to infiltrate ideological and political education, so that all types of courses can go in the same direction as ideological and political theory courses, creating a good synergistic effect and a good ideological and political education environment for students. The essential aim of education and teaching job is to cultivate individuals via moral education. It is not just the job of professors of ideological and political theory courses to strengthen students' ideological and political education, but it is also the crucial mission and obligation of all educators. College teachers should always implement the concept of cultivating talents through moral education, remembering that educators' task is not only to impart professional knowledge and cultivate professional skills to students, but also to teach students how to behave themselves in order to achieve the educational goal of nurturing talents.

Systematicity is a quality of ideological and political education. Forming the unification of direct and indirect ideological and political education in actual ideological and political education of colleges and universities is a totally new educational idea proposed by Secretary-General Xi Jinping in a symposium of ideological and political theory courses in 2019. He also emphasized the need of fully using ideological and political education resources in other courses, playing a role in all types of course education, realizing all-round talent education, and nurturing talents throughout the educational process. Curriculum ideological and political education is certifiably not a particular course, yet an instructive idea, technique and mode, which requires the mix of philosophical and political training into different courses and different teaching steps to accomplish the key objective of moral education.

## 2. Causes of lacking ideological and political education in college English curriculum

### 2.1 English teachers' insufficient ideological and political consciousness

To penetrate the content of ideological and political education in college English teaching, college English teachers are required to have the awareness of curriculum ideological and political education. We must correctly recognize the importance of English teaching and ideological and political education and let teachers take the initiative to assume the responsibility and mission of ideological and political education. Through curriculum ideological and political education, we can enhance the humanistic and ideological characteristics of college English teaching, so that the content and

connotation of English teaching can be sublimated and more ideal teaching effect can be achieved. But in reality, some college English teachers do not realize the importance of curriculum ideological and political education, and still regard delivering English knowledge as the only teaching goal and content in the course of teaching. If college English teachers hold such consciousness, then in the classroom they will neither take the initiative to actively infiltrate the ideological and political education and content nor make a good teaching design. Therefore, it is difficult to form a good atmosphere of curriculum ideological and political education and ideological and political education value is difficult to develop.

## **2.2 English teachers' insufficient ideological and political teaching competence**

Higher requirements are needed for English teachers both in professional proficiency and teaching ability in conducting curriculum ideological and political education. English teachers are not only supposed to master theoretical knowledge and language skills of English majors but also are required to understand the teaching strategies and teaching methods of ideological and political education. Teachers should deeply analyze the relevant theories and contents of ideological and political education, constantly strengthen their own moral training as well as the concept of the rule of law, and make full use of the extracurricular time to learn the relevant theories of ideological and political education. However, for most college English teachers, due to professional limitations, they cannot fully exert the educational value of ideological and political education without systematic learning of theory and content of ideological and political courses.

## **2.3 A shortage of teaching content related to traditional Chinese culture**

From the perspective of college English teaching content, nowadays there are many versions of college English textbooks with rich and colorful passages and texts, but most of them are original English articles with the purpose of highlighting western language features, cultures and values. There is very little content about traditional Chinese culture in the English teaching materials, which leads to the fact that modern college students pay too much attention to western culture and even regard western culture as a better choice than Chinese culture. Believing in hedonism, individualism and money worship, college students are prone to be misguided in their future career. For instance, college students are keen on celebrate western festivals such as Christmas, Halloween and Valentine's Day but ignoring traditional Chinese festivals, leading to the deficiency of mother tongue culture, which is not in line with the current strategies for cultural inheritance and development of China.

## **2.4 A lack of ideological and political elements in teaching process**

Curriculum ideological and political education is not a special topic for university English teachers to explain the content of ideological and political education, but it does necessitate teachers fully exploring the ideological and political elements and content in textbooks, or combining the teaching content and teaching objectives to adequately penetrate the ideological and political elements and content. However, given the current circumstances, teachers are paying greater attention in the classroom to improving students' English language levels and skills. They frequently overlook the humanism of the English subject while focusing on language itself, and they seldom include elements of ideological and political education in the educational process. Although certain ideological and political aspects will be permeated by teachers, the content of ideological and political elements and English education are not directly associated and even lack substantial significance. The contemporary social context is extremely complicated, and college students are living in the era of the Internet. They have access to information in a variety of ways and are susceptible to external influences. To promote ideological and political education, college English teachers should give full play to the central role of English classroom instruction. They should lead students to have a better grasp of Chinese culture so that they may build accurate cognition and approach the Western flood of culture and thinking logically, avoiding being corroded by negative culture.

## **2.5 A lack of effective teaching methods for ideological and political education**

Teachers must master efficient teaching strategies to impose the influence of ideological and

political education in college English classes in order to penetrate the content and aspects of ideological and political education. Though English teachers are eager to infiltrate the content and components of ideological and political education into their classrooms, there is a shortage of effective teaching techniques, as well as inventive and effective study of successful teaching methods to fulfil the mission. When it comes to cultivating world vision and patriotism, for example, teachers frequently lack sufficient detailed cultural context or the ability to permeate the content of the national situation, resulting in insufficient emotional experience and the inability to elicit mutual emotional resonance from students. In short, teachers have failed to identify and choose appropriate teaching techniques and tactics from the unique material of ideological education, resulting in a rather strict ideological education and making ideal results impossible to accomplish.

### **3. Solutions of realizing curriculum ideological and political education**

#### **3.1 Improving English teachers' curriculum ideological and political teaching competence**

Higher demands on English teachers' teaching competence, teaching level, and knowledge reserve have been imposed by ideological and political education in college English courses. It is critical to develop teachers' ideological and political education as well as course skills in order to integrate ideological and political education into college English teaching. While understanding foreign culture, college English teachers should learn more about Chinese traditional culture and be familiar with the development of Chinese history, in order to guide students to learn more Chinese traditional culture knowledge, to identify with Chinese traditional culture, to enhance students' cultural confidence, and to guide students to take the initiative to inherit and develop Chinese traditional culture. To foster students' cross-cultural consciousness, teachers should be familiar with and comprehend the cultural distinctions between China and the West. Furthermore, English teachers should continually enrich their theoretical knowledge of ideological and political education, as well as participate in political learning, so that those who can learn and understand more knowledge of ideological and political education through various paths can learn and understand more knowledge of ideological and political education.

#### **3.2 Implementing curriculum ideological and political education into teaching design**

To implement the ideological and political courses in college English teaching requires teachers to cultivate the great ideological and political views, establish the curriculum ideological and political consciousness, and implement the ideological and political elements into the teaching design. Teachers can create ideological and political topics in class, set up ideological and political context, and assign corresponding learning tasks so that students can participate in the discussion independently and gain a deeper understanding of ideological and political topics as the discussion progresses. Teachers should base their teaching objectives on the substance of the teaching materials, identify the ideological and political education direction based on the content, and integrate ideological and political education goals into the English teaching goal system. Teaching objectives play an important role in classroom teaching, teaching activities, and teaching process, so teachers must first determine teaching objectives, then penetrate ideological education goals, and then design corresponding teaching tasks, teaching activities, and ideological education into specific learning activities, encouraging students to actively participate in, and allowing students to participate in the process.

#### **3.3 Fully excavating curriculum ideological and political elements in teaching materials**

Teachers should delve deeply into the ideological and political education elements in the English teaching materials during the teaching process, which necessitates familiarity with the content of ideological and political education, as well as deep analysis and study of the English teaching materials, digging out the ideological and political elements in the teaching materials, carrying out ideological and political education on time, and realizing curriculum ideological and political education. Teachers can help students understand the essence of Chinese excellent traditional culture

to build cultural confidence by combining curriculum teaching with excellent traditional Chinese culture such as festivals, ancient prose, ancient poetry, folk music, national drama, folk art, Chinese painting, and Chinese calligraphy. For example, in college English courses, combining curriculum instruction and socialist core principles allows students to not only master English as a language tool, but also to understand the essential values of western civilization through humanistic education. With the deepening of interactions between China and the rest of the world, a plethora of complex values and social ideas have evolved, making it even more important to actively promote and practice Chinese basic socialist principles in language education. College English courses should help students integrate the country's, society's, and citizens' values, requiring today's college students to be patriotic, dedicated, honest, and friendly, to pursue social freedom, equality, justice, and the rule of law, and to achieve prosperity, democracy, civilization and harmony.

### **3.4 Implementing curriculum ideological and political education into teaching evaluation**

The evaluation of teaching should be in line with the classroom teaching objectives and the curricular goal. Teachers must identify the teaching objectives from the standpoint of humanistic and ideological education in order to accomplish successful college English curriculum ideological and political education. In the past, college English instruction primarily focused on assessing students' learning through tests, which is a final assessment technique that has many limits and is neither scientific or logical. Teachers should apply both formative and final evaluation to teaching evaluation in the context of ideological and political education, that is, they should not only pay attention to students' final examination results, but also to students' learning process, including students' learning enthusiasm and activity participation in the learning process. Teachers should pay attention to students in the usual study of moral cultivation, ideological condition, patriotism, national confidence, and so on, including these into the usual teaching evaluation system, which helps teachers sense students' ideological status and dynamic, and then instill more targeted ideological education from the actual situation of students' ideological condition.

## **4. Conclusions**

College English, as an important course in universities, takes a long time to complete and will continue throughout the entire teaching process. As a result, teachers should fully utilize English's educational role while also implementing the course's ideological and political functions. Teachers should refresh their minds and thoroughly comprehend the importance of ideological and political education based on courses. To achieve teaching objectives, they must develop new concepts and build instructional programs from the standpoint of curriculum ideological and political education. Furthermore, teachers are expected to extract ideological and political aspects from textbooks, merging real-world needs to expand ideological and political education content and create a unique course system for developing skills. What's more, teachers should experiment with new teaching approaches in order to develop their political literacy and teaching competence. Only by improving English teachers' curriculum ideological and political teaching competence, implementing curriculum ideological and political education into the teaching design, fully excavating curriculum ideological and political elements in teaching materials and implementing curriculum ideological and political education into the teaching evaluation can current college English teaching achieve the target of curriculum ideological and political education.

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