

The Logic of the Mutual Construction between Political Education Course and Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses

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Abstract: Over the years, the phenomenon of emphasizing intelligence over morality and “imparting knowledge only, not educating people” still exists in higher education to varying degrees, which leads to the disunity between teaching and educating people. As a new-type education model, political education role among diversified courses is realized in ideological and political theories teaching in all courses. Move each curriculum and political education courses forward together and form a joint force of educating people, which is conducive to realize the integration of knowledge imparting and value guidance. Meanwhile, this finds solutions to the problem of disconnection between political education and professional teaching, and jointly promotes the practical effect of fostering virtue through education in universities. The logic of the mutual construction between political education course and ideological and political theories teaching in all courses is based on a full understanding of rich connotations and a profound grasp of value implication. The reason why the two can be mutually constructed in logic is mainly because political education course takes the lead in political direction, ideological value, teaching staff and teaching methods of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses; in the meantime, this new-type education model expands the educational method, faculty, curriculum carrier and educational resources of political education course, so as to bring together all forces to achieve overall process and all-round education.

China’s higher education bears the essential responsibility to cultivate socialist builders and successors with all-round development concerning virtue, intelligence, physical conditions, mind status and community service, and must adhere to the principle of “fostering virtue through education”. However, since the reform and opening-up, especially in recent years, the phenomenon of emphasizing intelligence over morality still exists in higher education to varying degrees. In the implementation of college curriculum, emphasis is placed on imparting subject knowledge, while the educational function of each course is downplayed. The phenomenon of “imparting knowledge only, not educating people” still exists, which leads to the disunity between teaching and educating people. For this purpose, General Secretary Xi Jinping clearly proposed at the 2016 National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Universities, “we should regard the class teaching as the primary channel to educate people. The political education courses need to be enhanced in advancement, in order to satisfy the demands and expectations of students’ growth and development by the means of promoting the affinity and pertinence of political education course. All other courses should remain true to their original heart and perform their duties, so as to collaborate with political education courses to generate synergy”. Therefore, it is necessary to “speed up efforts under political education work throughout the whole process of teaching, realize the whole process and all-round education, and endeavor to make fresh progress on the development of China’s higher education”. [1] Ideological and political theories teaching in all courses is considered as a novel education model. It fully demonstrates political education effect of each course. Meanwhile, various courses and political education course cooperate with each other to form a joint force of educating people. This education model jointly promotes the practical effect of fostering virtue through education in universities. “To promote the construction of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses in all respects, it is essential to combine value guidance with knowledge imparting

and ability training, so as to help students shape correct worldview, outlook on life and sense of values”[5]. By realizing the integration of knowledge imparting and value guidance, the problem of disconnection between political education and major teaching can be solved. Fully comprehending rich connotations and ensuring value implication in a profound way, lay the foundation for the logic of the mutual construction between political education course and ideological and political theories teaching in all courses, through making comparisons between educational concept and curriculum theory.

1. The Value Implication from Political Education Course to Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses

1.1 The Main Content of Political Educational Course

Political education course is one specially set up to launch education about politics. It arranges the training objectives or moral cultivation required by the state or society in the form of a series of items as its course content to educate students one by one according to the catalogue. The political education course in universities “undertakes the task of systematically educating college students on Marxist theory. It remains an vital place to cement the leading role of Marxism in the ideological field of universities and to keep the socialist orientation in operating schools. Also, it is deemed as a main channel and core course to comprehensively implement the Party’s policy relating to education and carry out the basic mission of fostering virtue through education; and a soul course to strengthen and improve the political education work in universities and realize the connotative development of higher education”.[4]

In regard to the contemporary political education courses in universities, five compulsory courses are set up for the undergraduate students. Basic Tenets of Marxism, this book expands Marxist worldview and methodology in detail in a bid to assist students to have a correct understanding on the objective world and the law concerning the development of human society. Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, most of its content displays the theoretical achievements of bring Marxism into force according to Chinese conditions, which helps students to establish a firm ideals on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Conspectus of Chinese Modern History, its chief content is to give an account of the history since New China and the Party realized the national independence and people’s liberation from modern China to now, so as to enhance students’ understanding on the national conditions and get a firm grasp of why the people have followed the Communist Party of China. Ideological and Moral Cultivation and Fundamentals of Law, its emphasis is put on the education about morality and rule of law to address students’ troubles in their growth. Current Situation and Policy, it ensures students to have a clear picture of the domestic and international situation and to gain a comprehensive apprehension about the Party’s line, principles and policies. At the postgraduate stage, there are mainly two compulsory courses: Theory and Practice of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the New Era and Chinese Marxism and Contemporary Times.

1.2 The Value Implication of Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses

Nowadays, great changes have taken place on the educational and teaching field. During this practice, “ideological and political theories teaching in all courses” has been a overall educational concept. Its aim is to set up a new orientation on the functions of political education course, comprehensive literacy courses and major courses, to create innovative ways to lecture political education course, and to integrate educational elements into comprehensive literacy courses and major courses. Therefore, the role for class teaching to be the main channel to educate people is further to be played , and the educational function of all courses are promoted.

In 2014, Shanghai initially make efforts to take ideological and political theories teaching in all courses into action, and some major educational concepts and important measures that run through ideological and political education in all courses in universities were put forward here.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Education published the Implementation Outline of the Quality Improvement Project of Political Education Work in Universities, proposing to “strive to boost the class teaching reform focusing on ideological and political theories teaching in all courses”. In April 2020, the Ministry of Education and other eight departments issued the Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment of Ideological and Political Work System in Universities, pointing out ideological and political work needs to be conducted in all courses of each major. In May of the same year, the Ministry of Education issued the Guiding Outline for the Development of Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses in Universities, which further clarified that to make concerted efforts to give impetus to the development of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses is considered as a strategic action to carry out the fundamental mission of cultivating people through stepping up moral education and an significant task to improve the quality of talent cultivation.

Over the past few years, from the initiative of this new education model to the overall promotion of its construction, we must be aware the key to build a high-level competent personnel training system is to integrate itself into the ideological and political work system, and we must deeply realize the era value of this novel educational concept. Political education must not be out of touch with the times, which requires innovation in content, carrier, method and form. The evolution from political education course to ideological and political theories teaching in all courses is a shift from explicit indoctrination to implicit infiltration. As a fresh educational concept and the cultivation and output of values, this new teaching model is not a course or a series of courses, but a brand-new curriculum outlook and a new concept of political education work, which can achieve the purpose of cultivating people by combining political education elements with professional courses. It solves the problem of “imparting knowledge only, not educating people”, integrates the advantages of disciplines and curriculum groups with ideological and political education, embodies the new model of educating people in universities of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and realizes the collective progress of professional courses and political education courses.

2. The Logic of the Mutual Construction between Political Education Course and Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses

General Secretary Xi Jinping makes specific requirements on how to achieve common progress with respect to all kinds of courses in universities and ideological and political theory courses. That is, “we are required to seek a harmonious development between explicit education and implicit education, to explore the educating resources included in other courses and teaching methods, so as to make concerted efforts to implement the whole process and all-round education”,^[2] which follows the spirit of the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Universities. This obvious shift of two education models is crucial to further figure out the relationship between the two, to explore how they can be mutually constructed in logic, to fully take the leading role of political education courses into effect, and to realize the coordinated development of all college courses,^[6] aiming to comprehensively promote the construction of this new educational model, and build a “whole-process, full-participation and all-round” education system.

2.1 Political Education Course Lead the Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses

(1) Political policies leads the mutual construction logic

“The most vital point to launch political education courses well lies in thoroughly implementing the Party’s education policy, in settling the basic problem of whom to cultivate, how to cultivate and for whom to cultivate personnel”, General Secretary Xi Jinping made a clear statement that the political status of political education course was irreplaceable at the teachers’ forum on universities ideological and political theory courses. Political education course should lead the political direction unequivocally in the ideological and political theories teaching in all courses, and develop professional courses and political education course hand in hand, which requires that the two should be consistent at the political level first. All professional courses shall comply with the socialist

direction of managing schools and educating people, and abide by the direction of Marxism in all aspects of education and teaching. Under the guidance of ideological and political courses, the goal of political education can be realized, so as to work cooperatively to strengthen college students' national identity and political identity, and fully play the role of ideological and political education.

(2) Ideological value guidance is the foundation of mutual construction logic

“We must adhere to the full-participation, whole-process and all-round education principle, and guide the ideological values throughout the whole process and each link of education and teaching”. [3] Both education models have the same goal in educating people; that is, to lead ideological values throughout education and teaching. This new teaching model always regards value guidance as the top priority. On the basis of ideological value guidance of political education courses, the ideological value and spiritual connotation implied in the professional knowledge system are deeply excavated and refined, in order to lead students to integrate the value requirements of the country, society and citizens. It focuses on building the value system aiming at college students group in the new age. With the fundamental orientation of helping students shape correct worldview, life outlook and values, it is clear that the primary goal of all courses is to train socialist builders and successors with all-round ability involving morals, intelligence, physical fitness, free public service and fully integrate them into the knowledge system of professional courses, so as to “integrate value shaping, knowledge imparting and ability training” [5].

(3) Teaching staff guidance is the driving force of mutual construction logic

“Teachers in universities needs to keep in mind that educators receive education first, endeavor to become transmitter of advanced ideas and culture, unswerving supporters of the Party's governance, and better assume the obligation of mentors for the healthy growth of students.” [1] Teachers of all professional courses shoulder the same mission as teachers of political education courses. They should not only lead teachers of various courses to enhance their role awareness and role competency, but also achieve common progress through mutual assistance and cooperation with them. As for comprehensively promoting the structure of this new educational model, teachers play a key role, while as far as political education is concerned, teachers that major in ideological and political theory courses in the faculty play the decisive role in team coordination and cooperation. They lead all teachers to reinforce their sense of responsibility and awareness of education, and always follow students-oriented principle, care for students and serve students, so as to promote their healthy growth and development.

(4) Teaching method guidance is the key of mutual construction logic

The reform and innovation methodology of “eight unifications” is the regular understanding and successful experience concluded by General Secretary Xi Jinping since the long-term structuring of political education courses. Besides, it is also a teaching methodology, which can increasingly upgrade the ideological level, theory, affinity and orientation of political education courses, and is also a good way to enhance the effectiveness of the construction of fostering virtue in each course of each major. Curriculum is the basic carrier of the construction of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses. As a consequence, there is great necessity to thoroughly sort out the teaching contents of professional courses, dig deep into the elements of this new educational policy by combining the characteristics, thinking methods and values of different courses, and unite the cultivating elements with all the links and aspects of various courses teaching process and even the whole process of education and teaching, for the sake of continuous improvement of the level of integrating the connotation of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses into classroom teaching. Therefore, the ideological and political theories teaching in all courses should take the teaching methodology of “eight unifications” of political education course as a instruction to achieve the mutual combination of “courses” and “cultivating elements”.

2.2 Ideological and Political Theories Teaching in All Courses Expands the Political Education Course

(1) Expand the education model to educate people imperceptibly

It is a new model of adding “implicit infiltration” to the education model of political education

courses. It integrates “implicit educating” elements into course teaching or practical activities, allowing students to participate in them unconsciously, which is more implicit compared with the original method of imparting professional knowledge. This new pattern is closer to students’ daily learning and life reality. By integrating the “great truth” of political education into the “little things” of daily professional study and life, this educating way can improve the effect of political education from the “small points”, as well as help to form a friendly and harmonious interactive relationship between teachers and students. Explicit education in political courses may appear pan-political, with high goals, empty contents, single methods and so on. Compared with this, this new model is easier to eliminate students’ rebellious psychology, so that they can accept this “implicit” education method more consciously. Finally, the effect of imperceptible education can be achieved.

(2) Expand the faculty to build a full-participation, entire process and all-round education system

The education concept of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses has changed the normal state of teachers’ struggling alone in ideological and political theory courses in the past, and realized the creative transformation of ideological and political work from special personnel to all staff. Educating people is not only the responsibility of ideological and political workers in schools, but also the responsibility of all teachers and even the whole society, which requires the establishment of a network of “educating people with full participation”. Ideological and political theories teaching in all courses requires teachers of all kinds of courses to join the ranks of ideological and political work, and instill ideological and political education for college students in the whole process of course education and teaching. Ideological and political theories teaching in all courses expands the faculty of ideological and political courses, which enables all colleges and universities, all teachers and all courses to bear the responsibility of educating people, and makes every educational channel interrelated, infiltrated, influenced and complemented each other, reflecting the strategic thought of “fostering virtue through education in an all-round way”.

Expand the course carrier to promote the joint development of professional courses and political education courses

This new education manner takes course as the carrier, realizing the transformation of political education from “single course” teaching to “various course” education. The function of ideological and political education has been expanded from a single political education course in the past to various courses into general curriculum, professional courses and practical subjects[7], thus greatly enriching the course carrier of political education. The duty of professional course teachers is to fully tap the vivid educating materials in major courses according to the characteristics and advantages of different disciplines. “To integrate the education on socialism with Chinese features and the Chinese dream, education on core socialist values, rule of law education, labor education, mental health education, and education on the fine traditions of Chinese culture into the professional course teaching.”[5] It is necessary for them to strengthen students’ ideals and beliefs, take correct value guidance as the main keynote of socialist university classrooms, create an education system in which major courses and political education courses achieve mutual development, and reach the perfect integration of cultivating students by disciplines, courses and political education.

(4) Expand educational resources to build a pattern of “comprehensive political education”

This new pattern is not restricted to class teaching any more with the aid of making in-depth exploration on various “political education” resources. Compared with the relatively simple political education courses, it can better implement political education in full operation. Also, it has continuously expanded various educational platforms. In addition to drawing support from the main channel of the first classroom, it has also continuously strengthened the role of education on culture and practice in the second classroom, enhanced the connotation of network education in the third classroom, and constructed a system of ideological and political theories teaching in all courses with wide range, progressive structure and joint reinforce. Creating a “network ideological and political classroom” through the new media platform can fully combine the educational concept of the ideological and political theories teaching in all courses with the network education function, thus achieving the combination of the first classroom and the third classroom. This novel

educational pattern has also comprehensively stimulated the enthusiasm, initiative and creativity of professional course teachers. The resources of both the education platform and the education team have been expanded, and a pattern of “political education” has been constructed from multiple aspects.

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