

# *Research on the Ideological and Political Construction Path of College English Courses Based on Blended Teaching*

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**Keywords:** College English, Blended Teaching, Ideological and Political Construction, Research Strategies

**Abstract:** With the important educational purpose of “cultivating virtue and cultivating people”, teachers’ implementing of ideological and political education is an effective auxiliary for comprehensive ideological and political training of students. Under the advocacy of China’s “new liberal arts” education ideology, the introduction of *A Guide to College English Teaching* and *Guidelines for the Ideological and Political Construction of Courses in Colleges* have greatly promoted the development of college English teaching in China. The basic purpose of education is to impart knowledge, shape students’ positive values, fully explore the political factors contained in teaching materials, and combine them with the content of the curriculum, so as to achieve the educational purpose of the “Trinity”.

## 1. Introduction

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the 2016 National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities that “it is necessary to focus on cultivating people with virtue, integrate ideology and politics into educational work, and realize all-round education”, and asked teachers to “make full use of the main ways of education, and other disciplines should also do their own work and actively participate in, so that various disciplines and ideological and political theory courses can go together and form a synergy.” In the *Guidelines for English Teaching in Universities* issued by the Ministry of Education in 2017, it is clearly pointed out that “English is not only a humanities subject in schools, but also has instrumental and humanistic characteristics”; “Learn and exchange advanced technologies and techniques, strengthen cultural understanding, understand the differences between Chinese and foreign cultures, and improve cultural exchange skills; People-oriented, carrying forward the humanistic spirit, and attaching importance to the all-round development of people are important components of the humanistic spirit”. “English is a public basic course offered by all universities and colleges at present, a course to improve English language ability, strengthen Chinese feelings, expand international vision, and strengthen cross-cultural communication. It is a very valuable course, an important content of telling Chinese stories, spreading Chinese culture, and a compulsory course for deepening Chinese cultural values.”

## 2. Research Background and Significance

English is not only a basic university course, but also a comprehensive study to help students expand knowledge and understand Chinese and world civilization. In addition to improving basic listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills, it also includes cultivating students' comprehensive development ability and quality, including independent learning ability, cross-cultural communication ability, the spirit of unity and cooperation. Therefore, when constructing values, attention must be paid to the formation of its cognitive abilities in people. With the help of multimedia and social networking platforms such as flipped classrooms, MOOCs, micro-lessons, rain classrooms, and class groups, and using various forms such as English reading, speeches, and essay competitions, the mixed teaching mode of “network + offline” and “inside and outside the classroom” is used to closely link college English courses with students' daily lives, and subconsciously cultivate students' “four self-confidence”<sup>[1]</sup>. The Guidelines for the Ideological and Political Construction of the Curriculum of Colleges and Universities clearly states that in order to achieve “building virtue and cultivating people”, it is necessary to organically combine value shaping, knowledge transfer and ability cultivation<sup>[2]</sup>.

The 2020 edition of *A Guide to College English Teaching* highlights important components of the English curriculum in colleges and universities. In the new humanistic environment, English teaching in colleges and universities must cultivate college students' innovative spirit, entrepreneurial awareness, patriotic feelings, and awareness of integrating into world culture, and strengthen ideological and moral cultivation, humanistic quality, scientific spirit, constitutional and legal awareness, national security awareness, and consciousness. University English courses are not only an important part of traditional Chinese culture, but also an important carrier for Chinese talents and good Chinese stories. The ideological and political construction of college courses guides university English teaching to the “original intention” and “mission”, returns teaching to the right track of “educating people”, and organically combines it with knowledge system, guiding value orientation, knowledge transmission, ability cultivation and teaching and educating people<sup>[3]</sup>.

## 3. Problems in the “Ideological and Political Education” of College English Courses

### 3.1. Imbalance in Perceptions and Values

In English education in colleges and universities in China, education is focused on education itself, and less attentions is attached to the cultivating of students' morality, and there is a lack of effective coordination between English knowledge education and the cultivation of students' morality. In the traditional teaching process students simply learn knowledge and consequently become the carriers of knowledge. This traditional mode of English teaching fails to fully stimulate students' subjective initiative<sup>[4]</sup>. This separates perceptions and values, undermining the value of English teaching.

### 3.2 Weak Consciousness of Ideological and Political Education of Teachers

Some English teachers believe that ideological and political education is the work of teachers and counselors of ideological and political courses, and there are problems such as emphasizing wisdom and morality, emphasizing theoretical indoctrination, and consequently neglecting practical education, resulting in English teaching in colleges and universities' lacking of organically linking ideological and political education, which runs counter to the actual situation and the practical requirements of teaching in China.

The Implementation of *A Guide to College English Teaching* and *Guidelines for the Ideological and Political Construction of Courses in Colleges* reflect the ideological and political education

function of English teaching in colleges and universities, as well as the actual needs of English teaching reform in colleges and universities <sup>[5]</sup>. This shows that university English can and should change educational thinking into “curriculum thinking”, and conform to and establish good moral character and positive social atmosphere for college students.

#### **4. Ideological and Political Construction Path of College English Courses Based on Blended Teaching**

With the help of the power of network information, college English classes can break the traditional teaching methods and adopt new teaching methods, which mainly include “network + offline”, “inside and outside the classroom” and other comprehensive methods. Based on China’s education foundation, college English teaching can learn from foreign education experience, excavate history, grasp the contemporary, care for mankind, comprehensive future thinking, accelerate the establishment of teaching materials and evaluation systems with Chinese characteristics, so as to construct English teaching with rich ideological connotations, which is conducive to cultivating college students’ academic path, theoretical thought, system and cultural self-confidence <sup>[6]</sup>.

##### **4.1. Exploring the Content of Moral Education Teaching and Establishing a Platform for Sharing High-Quality Educational Resources**

In the new era of Internet development, using the real-time and interactive characteristics of information media, university English courses can break the limitations of time and space, create new teaching situations and learning methods, and make up for the gap caused by different teaching levels in regions and schools through high-quality online courses, teaching databases and other resources of brilliant teachers <sup>[7]</sup>. At the same time, the big data of the Internet is used to track and analyze the “value needs” of college students, and to carry out purposeful value cultivation according to the actual situation.

To achieve the effective sharing and integration of teaching resources in English teaching in colleges and universities, teachers must first figure out the professional ethics related to students according to their professional characteristics and environmental characteristics, and use this as teaching materials so that students can understand and learn deeply, so as to form a corresponding learning habit. Secondly, to analyze traditional Chinese thought and culture from the English curriculum and integrates it into practical education. The topics can involve humanities, society, nature, etc., and attach importance to the cultivation of traditional culture and socialist core values of college students. While absorbing, drawing on and integrating, the new teaching mode combines traditional national feelings with cultural wisdom, so that students can compare from an international perspective, have an all-round understanding of today’s China and the external international environment, gradually cultivate a healthy personality, and achieve an all-round improvement of rich morality, solid knowledge and harmonious development of ability.

##### **4.2. Improving the Quality and Role of “Curriculum Ideology and Politics” Education**

The spread of “curriculum ideology and politics” in college English teaching, whether it is the transmission of knowledge or the orientation of values, is to transform the scope of understanding of college students <sup>[8]</sup>. In the way of “network + offline” and “inside and outside the classroom”, students are guided to explore different topics based on the use of language, through ways of theme displays, group discussions, role plays and other language application and group cooperation. While the students are completing the exercises, their comprehensive English skills has been further improved, and the purpose of ideological and political teaching has been achieved.

Through the establishment of English teaching groups and cooperative learning methods through the Internet, students are guided to participate in the process of study independently, carrying out discussions, and improving their enthusiasm for learning. Following the idea of “focusing on Chinese culture, supplementing by others, excavating the essence of history, seizing contemporary opportunities, caring for mankind, and facing the future”, in response to current hot issues, teachers select vivid and meaningful educational resources, and disseminate the teaching content of “classroom ideology and politics” through the network platform to meet the needs of teachers and students<sup>[9]</sup>. Through the evaluation and feedback of “self-learning”, we can better understand the psychological state of college students, make the traditional teaching method become a friend-type communication, and give guidance and assistance to students in learning and life, and teachers play an auxiliary and guiding role in the classroom, so that students’ subjectivity and initiative are effectively reflected.

Through classroom discussions, project researches, group reports, role plays and other forms of classroom communication, students have enriched their knowledge horizons and enriched their thinking. With the development of students’ independent thinking and their collective cooperation spirit, students get enhanced in the practical application of knowledge, and their attention to English learning consequently get strengthened. This process is conducive to developing students’ cognitive, emotional and behavioral identity, to helping students subconsciously complete the transmission of knowledge and value orientation, break through the limitations of language, broaden visions, cultivate the ability of analysis, judgment and thinking, and subconsciously achieve the purpose of “curriculum ideology and politics” education.

#### **4.3. Improving Educational Evaluation and Establishing a Diversified Ideological and Political Evaluation Mechanism**

To diversify the evaluation system, content, and targets is a necessary way to ensure the implementing of “curriculum ideology and politics” education. Through real-time evaluations such as student self-evaluation, teacher-student mutual evaluation and student-student mutual evaluation, students’ learning effects can be analyzed from multiple dimensions and angles, and learning motivation can be effectively stimulated. The evaluation of curriculum teaching and learning effect has gradually expanded from the perspective of a single evaluation to multiple levels such as learning attitude, learning style and learning habits, guiding teaching behavior and measuring teaching effect<sup>[10]</sup>. Ideological and politicized teaching evaluation is also the process of ideological and political education for teachers and students, putting education in the first place, and running correct values and outlook on educating people through teaching, so as to promote thinking and learning through evaluation.

To achieve diversity, the course content may include various activities such as teamwork, planing campus activities, selection of China’s top ten events, introducing Chinese culture to foreigners, etc. And mutual learning and real-time interaction through online voting, mutual scoring, on-site assessment, etc. can also be applied. Teachers may provide targeted feedback and assessment of students’ classwork in an encouraging way, combining with the learning and teamwork of individual students. After class, teachers may guide students to conduct self-reflection, summarizing, and organizing the knowledge and values they have learned. The teacher thus build all these elements into a complete teaching plan to help students to learn effectively. This teaching activity gives full play to the rich humanistic spirit in English teaching, highlights the ability to use English, and promotes the development of English teaching and comprehensive quality.

## 5. Conclusions

Under the current situation, “curriculum ideology and politics” Education has played a vital role in the implementation of a new round of teaching reform, guiding the development of English teaching with the new concept of taking “teaching” and “learning” as the core of English teaching. The organic combination of knowledge transfer, ability cultivation and morality cultivation, makes the course content more substantial. The blended learning mode makes the teaching methods more diversified. The “topic + problem” learning mode continuously stimulates students’ positive thinking and gradually achieves the purpose of “cultivating virtue and cultivating people”. Every college English teacher should regard cultivating people with virtue as the fundamental task of teaching, constantly expand their thinking, combine ideological and political elements with English education, and form a great ideological and political pattern of educating students in the whole process and in an all-round way.

## Acknowledgements

“Research on the Construction Path of the Ideological and Political Education of College English Curriculum Based on Blended Teaching in the Post-epidemic Period: A Case Study of Foshan University”, the 2021 Teaching Quality and Teaching Reform Project of Undergraduate Universities in Guangdong Province.

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