



Research on Core Competencies of Instructors in Ideological and Political Theory Courses in Contemporary Higher Education

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Abstract. The key to make good class of ideological and political theory is teachers. Teachers of ideological and political theory course must have firm ideals and convictions, be strong in politics and deep in emotions; must have excellent comprehensive quality, broad vision; must have noble morality, treat themselves strictly and have personality of integrity; must have reliable professional quality, with solid scientific research and innovation of teaching.

Keywords: Contemporary; Core Competencies; Instructors in Ideological and Political Theory Courses.

1 Introduction

The 'six essentials' for ideological and political education teachers in the new era are: strong political acumen, deep emotional intelligence, innovative thinking, broad perspective, strict self-discipline, and upright character. These qualities represent the core competencies required for teachers in this field. Academia has extensively discussed the significant meaning, spiritual essence, scientific connotations, and historical evolution of these 'six essentials'. This article employs Marxist theory and systematic analysis methods to explore how these qualities can be effectively implemented, which holds both theoretical significance and practical value for enhancing ideological and political education in schools in the new era.

2 Teachers of ideological and political theory courses must have firm ideals and beliefs

"The fundamental aspect of teaching ideological and political theory courses is to comprehensively implement the Party's educational policies and address the fundamental questions of what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate them, and for whom to cultivate them." [1] This fully reflects the distinctive socialist ideological nature, special historical status, and irreplaceable significant role of ideological and political theory courses. The key to teaching ideological and political theory courses

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well lies in the teachers. Politically strong teachers of ideological and political theory courses must first and foremost possess ideal beliefs. Teachers of ideological and political theory courses are entrusted with conveying the Marxist belief system to students, aiding them in establishing correct ideal beliefs. Educators must first be educated and make students believe in Marxism, have faith in Marxism, and teach and apply Marxism sincerely. Only through a profound understanding and grasp of Marxism can one sincerely believe in Marxism; only by establishing a firm faith in Marxism can useful talents be cultivated who have ideals and aspirations and are willing to strive for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics throughout their lives. Therefore, letting those with faith speak of faith and those with beliefs speak of beliefs will provide confidence and strength, ensuring trustworthiness and continuity, which is the most basic professional ethics for teachers of ideological and political theory courses.

Politically strong teachers of ideological and political theory courses must also be bold and resolute in political discussions, consciously placing political standards as a priority, maintaining a firm political direction and stance, enhancing political acumen and discernment, maintaining political composure and consciousness, adept at viewing issues from a political perspective, and remaining politically clear in the face of major rights and wrongs. Specifically, they must possess the "Four Consciousnesses," firm "Four Confidences," fulfill the "Two Upholds," consciously assume the responsibility of guiding students toward healthy growth and becoming guides, and consciously undertake the responsibility of nurturing builders and successors of socialism.

Teachers of ideological and political theory courses must have deep sentiments. Deep sentiments manifest as having patriotism, love, and loyalty to the country and its people, encompassing a great love and devotion from the family to the nation, prioritizing the nation over the family, sacrificing personal interests for the nation. They should carry the nation and its people in their hearts, accepting the responsibility for the needs of the country and the expectations of the people, aligning personal interests with social needs, integrating academic responsibilities and social responsibilities, and aligning personal careers with the destiny of the nation. In the practice of teaching, research, and nurturing individuals, they must fulfill the mission entrusted by the Party and the people to cultivate morality and talent, achieving the unity of personal and social values. By focusing on the era and society in the great practices of the Party and the people, enriching and elevating personal thoughts and sentiments, realizing the interaction between personal ideals and the pulse of the times. By nurturing and guiding students to enhance their confidence in the path, theory, system, teachers influence students' patriotism with profound sentiments, guiding them to consciously integrate patriotism, the desire for a strong nation, and the commitment to the nation into the steadfast development of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the construction of a socialist modernized strong country, and the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

3 Ideological and political theory teachers should possess outstanding comprehensive qualities

The thinking of ideological and political theory teachers must be innovative. Successfully conducting ideological and political theory courses not only depends on the overall qualities of teachers, continuously enhancing their political ideology, moral integrity, professional knowledge, work style, and other qualities but also relies on the reform and innovation of ideological and political theory courses, continuously enhancing their ideological content, theoretical rigor, affinity, relevance, meeting the growth and development needs and expectations of students. It is essential to follow the laws of ideological and political work, the laws of teaching and educating people, and the laws of students' growth, insisting on adapting to changes, advancing with the times, and innovating according to the situation. Insisting on the unity of political and theoretical nature, value, and knowledge, constructive and critical nature, theoretical and practical nature, unity and diversity, guidance and subjectivity, indoctrination and inspiration, enhancing the pertinence, effectiveness, attractiveness, and infectiveness of ideological and political theory courses.

Improving the comprehensive qualities of ideological and political theory teachers requires that their vision be broad, with a broad knowledge perspective. In the rapidly developing era of science and technology, with society evolving rapidly and knowledge constantly accelerating, ideological and political theory teachers must also continuously acquire new knowledge, study the latest theoretical achievements of Marxism with Chinese characteristics, learn to apply new issues, materials, and experiences emerging in the practice of socialism with Chinese characteristics to enrich and improve the content of ideological and political theory education. Updating the knowledge system, optimizing the knowledge structure, innovating knowledge carriers, utilizing information technology and new media platforms for teaching, promoting the deep integration of ideological and political theory with information technology, guiding students to discover, analyze, and solve problems using Marxist perspectives and methods in forms and languages that students enjoy, seeking truth, understanding facts, and grasping principles[3].

Ideological and political theory teachers must have a broad international perspective. The world is currently undergoing unprecedented changes, with China increasingly rising and moving closer to the center of the world stage. The connections between China and the world have never been as close as they are today. This requires ideological and political theory teachers to have a broad international perspective, responding to students' concerns about global changes and China's role, meeting the demand for external world and international knowledge, guiding students to have a correct understanding of China's characteristics and international comparisons, and dialectically viewing the opportunities and challenges that the world's major changes bring to China. By highlighting China's advantages and confidence through comparisons, strengthening identification with the motherland, the Chinese nation, Chinese culture, the Communist Party of China, and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, enhancing confidence in the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, theoretical confidence, institutional confidence, and cultural confidence.

Ideological and political theory teachers must have a deep historical perspective. History is a continuous process that connects the past, present, and future. Understanding history is crucial for better perceiving the present and grasping the future. Without understanding history, we cannot comprehend the origins and development of things, and without a historical perspective, we cannot address issues in the context of development. Ideological and political theory teachers must establish a correct view of history, drawing nourishment from the profound and rich traditional culture formed by the Chinese nation over thousands of years, gaining wisdom from the great practices of our Party leading the people in revolution, construction, and reform, seeking enlightenment from the exploration of the laws of the Communist Party's governance, socialist construction, and human society's development, finding inspiration from the regular understanding and successful experiences formed in the construction of ideological and political theory courses over the long term. Guiding students to have a correct understanding of the historical inevitability of China's New Democratic Revolution, the socialist revolution and construction in China, and the historical inevitability of the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics, cultivating useful talents who support the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system, and are committed to lifelong efforts for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

4 It is essential for ideological and political theory teachers to uphold noble moral standards

Ideological and political theory teachers must prioritize cultivating their own moral integrity. These teachers bear the fundamental task of cultivating talents with high moral standards, as the cultivation of individuals must start with moral integrity, with the core of morality being party spirit. Cultivating party spirit, moral character, and personal strength are crucial conditions for successful education. Teachers should educate by using concrete examples to illustrate moral virtues. Ideological and political theory teachers should not only impart ideological and political theories but also establish themselves based on morality, integrate morality into learning, and teach with morality, imparting correct worldviews, outlooks on life, values, and morals to students. To be a model of high learning and moral integrity, one must strive to integrate knowledge with action and unify the mind and body. The master of the body is the mind. If one cannot control their own heart, how can they hope to control the vast universe? The inner world one possesses will reflect their ideological realm, values, and behavior in the teaching and scientific research processes. By practicing self-cultivation based on the party spirit principles of Marxism, it manifests as loyalty to the Party's educational cause, sincerity in ideological and political education work, confidence in delivering high-quality ideological and political theory courses, and dedication to teaching and research in ideological and political theory. By focusing on the 'heart,' fully leveraging the guiding role of ideal beliefs and moral sentiments, one can become a respected and trusted mentor in the hearts of students.

Ideological and political theory teachers must adhere to strict self-discipline. The

term "self-discipline" originated from the "Zuo Zhuan, Annals of Duke Ai's Sixteenth Year," referring to following laws, self-imposing constraints, and also representing a realm of cultivation that people pursue. Being cautious in solitude and meticulous in one's actions embodies a spirit of self-restraint advocated in traditional Chinese culture. Strict self-discipline requires long-term tempering of oneself and consistent dedication to one's words and actions. Engels once said, "Judging a person is certainly not based on their declarations but on their actions, not on how they claim to be but on what they do and who they actually are." Ideological and political theory courses should shape souls with noble spirits, inspire students with the power of truth, and lead trends with lofty morals. Teachers must practice strict self-discipline, for as the saying goes, "Without self-discipline, how can one be upright?" Strict self-discipline is the way of teaching, the key to success, and the foundation of self-cultivation; it should be the realm of cultivation and professional requirement for ideological and political theory teachers. To achieve strict self-discipline, one should, an enterprising spirit, and an ordinary mindset, always uphold political, disciplinary, moral, and lifestyle boundaries, be constantly vigilant, alert, and aware of problems, maintain consistency in behavior both in and out of class, online and offline, and in public and in private. Consciously promote the main theme and actively convey positive energy. By embodying the character of self-discipline and self-improvement, teachers can set a good example for students.

Ideological and political theory teachers must possess a positive character. These educators carry the sacred duty of "cultivating generations of talented individuals who support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the socialist system of our nation, and aspire to contribute to the advancement of socialism with Chinese characteristics." Ideological and political theory courses rely on the conquest of hearts through Marxist truths and the ability of teachers to inspire with their character charm and spiritual presence, thus transmitting positive energy. A person of integrity first ensures their own rectitude. When one's conduct is upright, actions naturally follow; when one's conduct falters, even commands go unheeded. The demeanor and actions of teachers directly influence the inner worlds of students, subtly shaping their character development, intellectual growth, and moral elevation. Ideological and political educators must embody a dignified character, embracing the responsibility of "establishing a purpose for the world, defining a mission for the people, inheriting the wisdom of past scholars, and fostering peace for future generations." They should possess the spirit of "seeking knowledge, questioning, thoughtful reflection, clear discernment, and steadfast practice," along with a tireless commitment to teaching and a dedication that leads to continual achievement. By establishing themselves with virtue and serving as exemplars, by nurturing students' sound character through their own wholesome traits, by inspiring students' noble aspirations with their own lofty sentiments, and by molding students' excellent qualities with their own outstanding virtues, they can sow the seeds of truth, goodness, and beauty in the hearts of students.

5 ideological and political theory teachers must possess solid professional competence

Research in ideological and political theory teaching must be rigorous. Engels once stated, 'Even developing a materialist viewpoint in a single historical event requires years of calm and thorough scientific research. It is clear that mere empty talk is useless here; only through a significant amount of critically examined and thoroughly mastered historical data can such tasks be achieved.' Therefore, enhancing the professional level of ideological and political theory teachers requires long-term, arduous, and in-depth scientific research to fully grasp the scientific system of Marxist theory, demonstrate theoretical accuracy, correct viewpoints, effective methods, and profound thinking in teaching, and elevate the literacy of social sciences and natural sciences. This process broadens their professional knowledge and interdisciplinary perspectives, thereby enhancing academic and teaching charisma. Engaging in scientific research necessitates not only diligent reading but also frequent contemplation since the path of learning must be rooted in thought. Thoughts lead to understanding, while lack of contemplation leads to ignorance. Teachers must closely align their thoughts with the content and methods of ideological and political theory teaching and persist in writing, continuously promoting the systematic and profound understanding of ideological beliefs. It is crucial to not only express ideas in writing but also transform theoretical achievements into teaching materials, guiding students to strengthen their awareness of issues.[2]

In terms of teaching, ideological and political theory educators must innovate. Ideological and political theory courses serve as the primary channel and battleground for shaping students' personalities, thoughts, and souls. By integrating theory with practice, enriching teaching forms, and innovating teaching methods, one can enhance the ideological and theoretical depth, affinity, specificity, and effectiveness of ideological and political courses. utilize extracurricular activities, integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications through field investigations, and Marxist study groups, expand educational horizons, enrich teaching content, broaden students' perspectives, enabling them to understand the national conditions, comprehend society, experience life, and integrate into themselves through practice.

Continuous diversification of teaching forms is essential. For instance, organizing various thematic lectures around teaching content, conducting theme speeches, classroom demonstrations on social hot topics, hosting debates, and discussion sessions on societal issues[4]. Teachers need to plan, design problems, and provide full guidance throughout. Leveraging emerging media for efficient transmission of teaching information, using multimedia teaching methods scientifically and reasonably, maximizing the advantages of online educational resources can transform the learning of ideological and political courses from being 'meaningful' to 'interesting,' evolving from 'I have to learn' to 'I want to learn,' transitioning from 'one-way' to 'interactive,' and changing from 'flat' to 'three-dimensional.' Exploring innovative teaching methods is crucial. The accumulated understanding and successful experiences in the development of ideological and political courses provide a solid foundation for adhering to tradition while innovating. For traditional heuristic, participatory, thematic,

case-based teaching methods, as well as emerging network-based, flipped classroom teaching methods, the selection, application, improvement, and evaluation are ongoing challenges that teachers need to explore and overcome. Methods serve the content, methods serve the audience. How to enhance students' motivation, initiative, and engagement in learning should always be a focal point for teachers when selecting, designing, optimizing teaching methods[5].

6 Conclusions

The key to success in teaching political theory courses lies with the teachers. The 'six essentials' provide a concise summary of the essential qualities that ideological and political education teachers in the new era should possess. It is through maintaining the unity of theory and practice, as well as learning and application, that the 'six essentials' can truly take root and be put into practice.

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