

# On Innovative Education Mode of Ideological and Political Theories Course of Universities

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**Key Words:** University; ideological and political theories courses; teaching; innovative mode

**Abstract:** As an important subject in university education, ideological and political theories course helps to improve humanism accomplishment of colleges' students and human spirit of colleges. With teaching practices, an innovative, sustainable and overall education mode come into being gradually by accumulating teaching experiences and reforming teaching manners. However, there are some common problems which lower the teaching quality. Therefore, in order to make further innovation in education mode and qualified teaching, the paper will discuss the current situation and problem of ideological and political course to take corresponding measures so as to enhance the reform and development of such course in university education. The Ministry of Education cut seven classes of ideological and political theories into four in 2005, which have fewer classes and are more efficient in teaching content comparing with those in 1998<sup>[1]</sup>. The general implementation of such course has achieved teaching experiences accumulation and good teaching effects while some problems appear that affect the efficient and comprehensive development of ideological and political theories course. Consequently, analyzing present teaching situations, as well as figuring out and solving the problems are necessary to promote the advancement of ideological and political theories course and to improve humanism accomplishment of colleges' students and human spirit of colleges.

## Current Situations

In 2003, when talking about the deeper reform in Three Representatives, Ministry of Education pointed out that the universities should strengthen teaching of ideological and political theories and make innovation in teaching mode for better playing modern education and teaching technologies and achieving teaching goals<sup>[2]</sup>. In addition, in 2005, CCP Central Propaganda Department also clearly indicated the importance of practice teaching in ideological and political theories course, which raise the students' capabilities of observing and analyzing social events.

Since *Scheme 2005* posted by Ministry of Education had been implemented, universities take multimedia and projection as teaching techniques, and develop various multimedia coursewares. In the context of diversified teaching, college students organize numerous countryside practices in their vacations and kinds of matches like debates, speech contests and knowledge contests. All of these activities become one part of practical teachings of ideological and political theories. However, different modes obtain different effects, and cause discrepancy in students' understanding of ideological and political theories<sup>[3]</sup>.

The relationship between theories and practices of ideological and political theories course must be taken care to promote the teaching effects of innovative modes<sup>[4]</sup>. At present, the universities do not come into agreement in understanding and positioning of practical teaching of ideological and

political theories course, which adversely affect the development of such course and its innovative modes. Practical teaching is not independent as one branch of theoretical education. At the same time, the practical teaching is based on theoretical teaching by connecting practices with theories. In other words, for ideological and political theories course in universities, practical teaching and theoretical teaching are associated with each other tightly.

To diversify the teaching mode of ideological and political theories course, some practical teaching of other courses are employed. However, there are some discrepancy between practical teaching of ideological and political theories course and that of other courses. Firstly, the former one aims to promote students' logical thinking and outlooks on world, life and value, instead of strengthening their professional skills. Secondly, ideological and political theories course emphasizes understanding and application while other courses require practices themselves. And at last, such course has flexible and various teaching techniques while others are relatively single and untargeted<sup>[5]</sup>.

## **2. Problems in Innovative Education Modes of Ideological and Political Theories Course**

Although the nation and universities have paid much attention on ideological and political theories course that helps students to establish proper outlooks on life, world and values, there are some problems for teaching of necessity to solve as following:

Some students hold that ideological and political theories course only exists in China and it cannot solve practical problems at all, which definitely limit the development of such course. In fact, it plays an important role in enriching teaching forms, making classes active and lively and practicing students' skills, as well as improving the practical theories education. That is to say, college students should convert their ideas and lay emphasis on ideological and political theories course.

With deeper social reform, people have greatly changed their minds about economy, culture and politics. To be more specific, economic minds affect every aspects of the society, including ideology and political ideas of college students<sup>[6]</sup>. The fierce competition in learning ideological and political theories has massive values. And thus, the aims that college students learning ideological and political theories course are clearly utilitarian.

The textbook used in ideological and political theories course is written by Ministry of Education and CCP Central Propaganda Department, which is expressed thoroughly, highly structured and logical, and thus being a theoretically perfect book for learning<sup>[7]</sup>. On the other hand, many students said that there is too much theoretical knowledge but much fewer practical examples, in which some abstract theories are difficult to understand. In addition, the whole textbook is full of words without pictures making students boring. And most content in the book have been introduced in junior and high school. To sum up, the textbook is improperly arranged in content, bringing difficulties for students' learning and great pressure for teachers' teaching.

In such an era of information, multimedia technology is more and more popular for its live and intuitive features. But obviously, some disadvantages are found in this application: 1) there are vast information for students to grasp that causes teacher-student interaction less; 2) the presentation of multimedia requires teachers to stand around the rostrum which limits teachers' activity area and their teaching flexibility; and 3) teachers try to make their teachings systematic and complete by introducing the theories mostly and without linking to current affairs. All of these problems lead to students' low passion for ideological and political theories course and further adversely affects teaching effects.

## **3. Organization and Implementation of Innovative Education Modes of Ideological and**

## Political Theories Course

The innovation of practical education modes is significant for ideological and political theories course and efficiently organizing such teaching is an important part of innovative practical education <sup>[8]</sup>. Therefore, it demands teachers and students to actively join in the class according to the principles of education law on ideological and political theories course. Firstly, the universities should execute the plan of talent training by taking credit and class hours as performance criteria and compiling the schedule strictly. Besides, the teaching organization department should put teachers into the project of writing textbook by making corresponding teaching practices. And students need to conduct some activities to propaganda, such as school activities and vacation practices, as well as doing related researcher by applying for some subjects. At the same time, the universities should establish teaching field bases for more teachers and students being involved.

### 4. Solutions to Improve Innovative Education Modes of Ideological and Political Theories Course

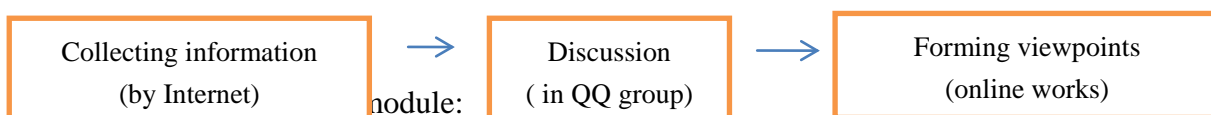
The problems of practical teaching of ideological and political theories course in universities include insufficient recognition, increasingly utilitarian tendency, improper textbook content and teachers' lack of novel teaching methods and techniques, which seriously harm the development of such course <sup>[9]</sup>. In order to solve these problems, teachers should enhance their own knowledge and teaching level by connecting theories with practices to combine theoretical part of such course with practical teaching. In addition, with good learning atmosphere and innovative teaching mode, students will play their dominate role to realize the value of ideological and political theories course by actively joining in classes and thinking over the related questions. In such manner, the ideological and political theories will move into practical classes gradually <sup>[10]</sup>. Meanwhile, universities need to choose appropriate textbook based on students' conditions, and teachers do their teaching in creative ways together with characteristics of this course so as to improve teaching quality in universities.

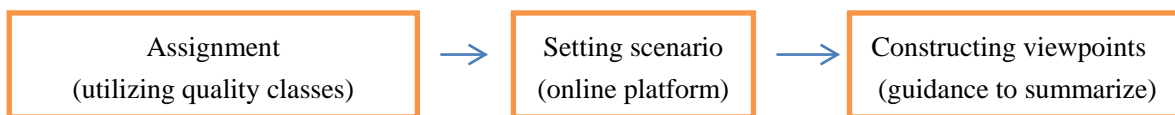
Theories education is boring for students since there is too much abstract theoretical knowledge. So teachers need to bring their students to conduct social practices by means of investigation, research and public activities and give them theoretical guidance <sup>[12]</sup>. In this way, students can realize the importance of ideological and political theories course, master scientific theoretical methods to solve practical problems, which is the target of this course in universities.

The teaching activity of ideological and political theories course is instructed by Teaching and Research Department and involved with different departments. Therefore, it is necessary to coordinate and supervise their works to ensure smooth conduction of innovative education code of ideological and political theories course. For example, the Party Committee of universities is responsible for instruction and coordination, the Academic Affairs Office for syllabus, supervision and assessment and Ministry of Public Works and Youth League Committee for organization and implementation. With that cooperation and coordination, the teaching activity of this course will be operated effectively and teaching resources are shared and utilized efficiently.

Figure.1 is a brief chart of innovative education mode of ideological and political theories course of universities.

Students' self-studying module:





To innovate the education mode of ideological and political theories course in universities is an important project, which includes making syllabus, selection teaching content, innovate teaching mode and establish teaching field bases, as well as the organization and implementation of teaching, teachers' management and students' participation <sup>[13]</sup>. Every part has great impacts on teaching quality and effects. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze and solve problems in education mode of this course and to establish an innovative mode to enhance the course's reform and development and further improve humanism accomplishment of colleges' students and human spirit of colleges.

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