

# A Probe into the Path of Integrating Curriculum Ideology and Politics into Foreign Language Teaching

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**Abstract:** In today's world, various ideologies and cultural values are intertwined. In this context, foreign language universities have the responsibility of delivering professional talents to the world. Under the great ideological and political education pattern, curriculum ideological and political construction in foreign language teaching is an indispensable part of it. Beginning from the concept of curriculum ideology and politics, this article explains the significance of curriculum ideological and political construction in foreign language teaching as well as explores the path of integration of curriculum ideology and politics into foreign language teaching.

**Keywords:** Curriculum ideology and politics; Foreign language teaching; Foreign language talent training

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## 1. Introduction

At the national conference on ideological and political work in colleges and universities, the leader emphasized that ideological and political theory courses must be strengthened and improved; in addition, the affinity and pertinence of ideological and political education must be enhanced, in order to ensure that various courses and ideological and political theory courses are in the same direction, forming a synergistic effect <sup>[1]</sup>. Under the guidance of this discussion, "curriculum ideology" has become an important, comprehensive, and all-round education concept, which governs all aspects in various courses. In today's era, China is increasingly moving toward the center of the world, assuming more responsibilities in the growth of a community with a shared future, and "Chinese wisdom" is also gradually being recognized by the world. Foreign language teaching in colleges and universities is the main way for college students to be exposed to foreign thoughts, cultures, values, and ideologies. Excellent foreign language talents are the ambassadors of "telling China's stories well." Therefore, foreign language universities do not only need to train excellent foreign language professionals, but also shoulder the mission of cultivating people and clarifying primary issues, including "Who to train?", "How to train?", and "For whom?"

## 2. Ideological and political courses as well as curriculum ideology and politics

Ideological and political education (ideological and political courses) is an important way to implement the fundamental task of moral education. Both ideological and political courses as well as curriculum ideology and politics are important forms of establishing morality, but the two concepts are not the same. Ideological and political courses refer specifically to the curriculum system of ideological and political theory education, while curriculum ideology and politics is a curriculum concept and a teaching system that contains the goals of ideological and political education <sup>[2]</sup>.

The content of ideological and political education is the functional ideological and political information based on certain education goals and social requirements, combined with the ideological reality of the educatee. It is designed by the educator to impart valuable guidance to the educatee in a purposeful, planned, and organized manner. In terms of teaching methods, the common methods of ideological and political education are theoretical education and practical training. The Marxist theory of knowledge and practice states that social practice is the source and impetus for the formation and development of human thoughts; it is also the only criterion for testing whether a thought is correct. Various forms of practical activities are important ways for education subjects to form correct world outlook, outlook on life, and values; they play a decisive role in cultivating the ideological and moral character of the majority of students. However, it is worth pointing out that ideological and political education courses are not closely related to other professional courses. Even if some courses include ideological and political education when specifying teaching materials and selecting teaching objectives or methods, most of them remain at the surface.

Essentially, curriculum ideology and politics is different from ideological and political curriculum; the former is not presented in the form of specific courses, but rather an implicit education concept. It is an ideological and political education view under the influence of “great political ideologies”<sup>[3]</sup>. Curriculum ideology and politics requires teachers to fully explore the ideological and political education resources in each course and combine specific course contents to achieve the ideological and political education effect of moral education. In this way, the two-way interaction between knowledge transfer and value guidance can be formed in the teaching practice. Due to the particularity of foreign language teaching, students need to face the foreign ideology and cultural values hidden behind the language. This requires the identification of ideology and cultural value orientation in the process of foreign language teaching in colleges and universities. Curriculum ideology and politics can help instructors to identify the ideological and political education resources in the curriculum in advance as well as consciously cultivate students’ critical thinking skills in the course of teaching.

### **3. Significance of curriculum ideological and political construction in foreign language teaching**

In today’s world, culture is unprecedentedly prosperous in consideration of all the ethnic groups, and different ideologies are intertwined. As China is playing an increasingly important role on the world stage, telling China’s stories well and maintaining cultural self-confidence have become essential qualities for foreign language professionals.

#### **3.1. Assisting foreign language teaching to achieve the goal of moral education**

At the national conference on ideological and political work in colleges and universities, the leader pointed out that moral education should be assumed as the central link and ideological and political work should be integrated throughout the entire process of education and teaching, in order to achieve comprehensive education; in addition, it is also essential to strive to open up a new situation in the development of higher education in China. Foreign language students in colleges and universities need to directly face foreign ideologies and mainstream western discourse. This mandates foreign language courses to incorporate the cultivation of correct world outlook, outlook on life, and values into the teaching goals<sup>[4]</sup>. At the same time, this can help students enhance their national self-confidence and cultural identity in cross-cultural communication. Curriculum ideology and politics can help to dig out the ideological and political education resources in the curriculum, and in combination with foreign language teaching methods, the goal of moral education can be achieved.

### **3.2. Cultivating foreign language talents with excellent political qualities**

Today, China is striding toward the center of the world stage and actively participating in global governance. China's connection with the world is advancing, thus providing opportunities for the development of foreign language courses. Foreign language majors cover a wide range and continuously meet the needs of the country, society, and people. Especially in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, they play important roles in language input and output, assuming the historical mission and responsibility of the era of major-country diplomacy. Telling China's stories well does not only require foreign language talents to have solid language foundation, but also to be able to make comments and judgments in the face of complex ideologies and values as well as to improve their abilities in distinguishing right from wrong. The concept of curriculum ideology and politics has made foreign language universities pay more attention to the implicit ideological and political resources in the curriculum, focusing on enhancing students' deep understanding of "Chinese roads" and "Chinese diplomacy," as well as integrating them into teaching through clever designs<sup>[5]</sup>. As a result, students can improve their political literacy while gaining knowledge and become foreign language talents with excellent political qualities.

### **3.3. Enhancing the ideological and political ability of foreign language teachers**

As the executors of curriculum ideology and politics, foreign language teachers are required to actively pay attention to the ideological and political resources in the curriculum, promote the combination of ideological and political resources and specific language knowledge, use appropriate teaching methods, and then consciously improve the awareness of curriculum ideology and politics. In order to tap the curriculum resources, teachers must have a deep understanding of China's national condition, political situation, party and country policies, achievements in reform and opening-up, its history and excellent traditional culture, and the cultivate students' home and country feelings. In carrying out the construction of curriculum ideology and politics, teachers must first have a correct political stance, a firm political consciousness, and a strong ability to discern<sup>[6]</sup>. In that way, the construction of curriculum ideology and politics is conducive to the enhancement of foreign language teachers' ideological and political ability.

## **4. A probe into the path of integrating curriculum ideology and politics into foreign language teaching**

### **4.1. Ideological and political teachers and professional teachers working together**

Moral education is the responsibility and mission that professional teachers should undertake. Professional teachers should take effective measures to integrate ideological and political education into professional course education and promote the joint efforts of professional and ideological and political courses. Curriculum ideology and politics denotes that all courses have the function of educating people. Professional teachers must consciously grasp the dynamics of ideological and political education in the teaching process as well as clarify the content of ideological and political courses. In the process of teaching professional courses, excavated ideological and political education resources should be used and the theoretical orientation of ideological and political courses should be integrated to meet the requirements of curriculum ideology and politics<sup>[7]</sup>. Previous ideological and political courses mainly focused on the guidance of ideological and political theories. These theories can be concretely presented in the ideological and political resources of professional courses so that students can improve their ideological and political awareness.

### **4.2. Be ideological and political when teaching in class**

Although ideological and political education is ongoing all the time and covering all aspects of teaching, it cannot be denied that a classroom is an important place for the implementation of foreign language

curriculum ideological and political construction <sup>[8]</sup>. After fully excavating the ideological and political resources in the curriculum, foreign language teachers should integrate these resources into foreign language knowledge and ability goals as well as in classroom activities through careful design. In order to achieve this, first of all, teachers should be highly sensitive to ideological and political resources; secondly, teachers should have good teaching design capabilities, capable in integrating potential ideological and political resources into the teaching process of professional knowledge, as well as avoid bringing discomfort to students.

#### **4.3. Make full use of the teaching evaluation “baton”**

Teaching evaluation is the “baton,” which plays a guiding role in the entire education process. If there is no teaching evaluation, all the previous efforts would be pointless, the effectiveness of teaching methods cannot be evaluated, and there will be no improvement in any of those teaching methods. Foreign language colleges and universities should observe excellent demonstration classes to point out the direction for their teachers <sup>[9]</sup>. As for the evaluation of ideological and political teaching in foreign language courses, it depends on whether the professional knowledge of the course is fully imparted and whether the teacher has unearthed and refined the implicit ideological and political elements in the curriculum as well as integrated these elements into the teaching activities.

#### **5. Conclusion**

The ideological and political education of foreign language courses needs to highlight its education orientation, ensure that the curriculum is an effective carrier of ideological and political education, promote the integration of explicit education and implicit education, as well as better achieve the goal of cultivating people. At present, curriculum ideology and politics is still in the exploratory stage, and a complete institutional system has not yet been formed. Foreign language colleges and universities should base themselves on their own characteristics and dig deeper into ideological and political education resources while teaching various courses so that these courses may play a better role in educating people.

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The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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