

# Practice and Reflection on the Political Thought Construction of American Literature Curriculum

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**Abstract:** "Curriculum Ideology and politics" is not only a new concept of education, but also the reconstruction and re understanding of the concept of knowledge and curriculum. American literature curriculum is in the forefront of Sino-foreign exchanges and ideology, and is an important support for talent training. Therefore, the task of Political thought education in the curriculum is particularly prominent. The humanities attribute of American literature determines that American Literature Teaching and curriculum political thought education grow and naturally fit. Under the curriculum background, in order to achieve the goal of teaching "curriculum political thought" and do a good job in educating people, we need to fully tap the political thought education resources in American literary classics. The political thought course of American literature has unique advantages and great significance. Teachers need to improve their moral and theoretical literacy, keep up with the forefront of Marxist theory, and demonstrate the use of Marxist stand, viewpoint and methods to analyze American literary and cultural phenomena. As a specialized course and general course, it is necessary for students to carry out moral education based on socialist core values to explore the political thought elements. Practice will prove that the political thought education in American literature curriculum will organically integrate political thought education with professional curriculum education, so that it can play both an explicit role and a subtle and implicit role, which is of great significance.

## 1. Introduction

In short, "curriculum political thought education" means that "all courses in Colleges and universities should play the role of Political thought education" . American literature is the traditional core curriculum of English language and literature major in Colleges and universities in China. It plays an important role in the cultivation of English talents. Realizing the political thought construction of American literature curriculum is of great significance in the political thought reform of English discipline [1]. All courses in Colleges and universities should play the role of Political thought education. At the moment of human social and economic development and cultural diversity, whether from the deepening of Political thought education or the expansion of professional courses themselves, the integration of the two is the need of the current reality and the inevitable trend of irreversible transformation in the future [2]. Under the background of the curriculum, the history of American literature, as one of the required courses for English language and literature majors, also undertakes the important task of carrying out curriculum political thought work [3]. We should integrate the new concept of political thought education into the teaching of various subjects, and train qualified socialist builders and reliable successors for the party and the country [4].

In the new era, "based" has become a new trend for China's foreign language higher education to return to its original intention and continue to develop for the better. The majority of colleagues in the foreign language field have a profound reflection on the current situation of China's foreign language education [5]. On the basis of summarizing the gains and losses, this paper discusses the cultivation of talents in China's foreign language education in the new era and explores new ways. The essence of curriculum ideological politics is a kind of curriculum view, which aims to integrate the content and elements of ideological politics into all links and levels of professional courses. The party and the state attach great importance to the development of China's higher education in the

new century. Under the background that the state attaches great importance to political thought education, disciplines and majors in colleges and universities are trying to build an all-round and three-dimensional "political thought" pattern [6]. Carry out classroom teaching reform aiming at curriculum political thought education, and dig out and sort out the political thought education elements and functions contained in various professional courses. Realizing the organic unity of political thought education and professional knowledge education is the historical mission given by the state to all professional courses in colleges and universities, and foreign language courses are duty-bound [7]. English, Chinese and other majors in colleges and universities can't help but take American literature courses. In the context of large-scale enrollment and emphasis on general education in colleges and universities, American literature elective courses are also popular [8].

## **2. The path of realizing political thought education in American Literature Curriculum**

### **2.1. Establish a correct curriculum view of curriculum thought and politics**

To establish the curriculum concept of "political thought education in curriculum" is to raise the awareness of educating people, consciously integrate political thought education in colleges and universities into all links of curriculum teaching and reform, and consciously practice the spirit of political thought education in curriculum in relevant links of classroom teaching. For a long time, the teaching of American literature major courses and students' political thought education are often separated, and the evaluation criteria of course teaching often focus on the teaching and training of professional knowledge and skills, but pay insufficient attention to the cultural attribute of "moral education" of major courses. The analysis of Political thought points must be reflected in the new syllabus, which is the value basis of American literature curriculum teaching and the concentration and generalization of implicit educational elements. Different from the traditional view of knowledge, "curriculum political thought" takes promoting human development as the main value orientation of building a new view of knowledge. Reading American classic literature is an important way for students to contact foreign cultures and values, which can cultivate students' cross-cultural ability and international vision. In teaching, we can learn from the research methods of comparative literature, organically integrate Chinese elements, and cultivate students' cultural consciousness. Although American literary works reflect Western values, there is also a wide intersection between eastern and Western civilizations in the field of values. If teachers fail to timely and properly guide students to compare Chinese and American cultures in the teaching process, it is easy to lead to students' conflicting understanding of American core values [9]. In the series of novel teaching on the theme of disillusionment of "American Dream" in American literature, combined with the recent cases of American gross interference in China's internal affairs, through discussion, young college students are guided to recognize the essence of democracy and freedom in western countries led by the United States, and students are warned not to fall into the "democracy trap" of the west. Classical American literature itself contains rich humanistic connotations. Teachers, guided by socialist core values, can guide students to dialectically understand these connotations in a simple way. This is a good ideological education practice in itself, which can broaden students' aesthetic and knowledge horizons, cultivate students' sentiment and achieve the goal of moral education. Chinese culture endows the Chinese nation with immortal life, guides the Chinese people to walk out of a road of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and also gives confidence for equal dialogue between China and western developed capitalist countries such as the United States. We are required to be deeply aware of the unique western positions and viewpoints in literary works when offering American literature courses for English majors in colleges and universities, so that the classic stories, beautiful languages and profound philosophies can be used by us, and at the same time, we should be alert to the infiltration of western ideological positions. The "curriculum political thought education" needs to reveal and transmit exactly the knowledge core located in the deep layer of the knowledge system. The value of knowledge is equal to the spiritual extension of human beings, because knowledge itself is the spiritual product of human beings [10]. As shown in Figure 1, the core structure of knowledge and the hierarchical

structure of knowledge:

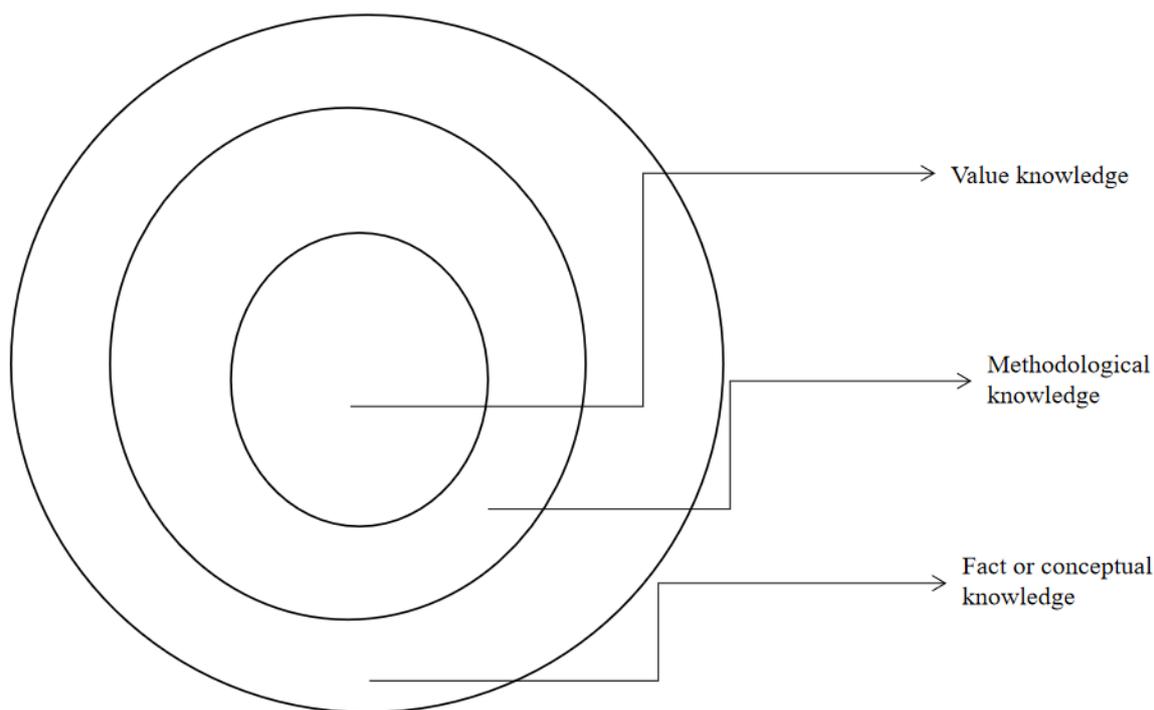


Figure 1 Core structure of knowledge and hierarchical structure of knowledge

## 2.2. Constructing teaching models and methods to improve students' sense of acquisition

In the traditional classroom teaching mode of literary history, students unilaterally accept the teaching of teachers' knowledge and lack of thinking. The learned content is easy to have memory fault and can not achieve the effect of learning. Depth teaching depends on the depth of teachers' understanding of teaching materials and the quality of teaching content itself. The most valuable content in teaching materials should be selected. Therefore, clarifying what is the most valuable content has become the core issue affecting the quality and depth of classroom teaching. Based on the revision of the political thought syllabus, the professional curriculum should be closely combined with the school running orientation, service orientation and employment destination of students, and formulate corresponding evaluation standards. American literary works inevitably have the content of promoting American cultural view, even political view and religious view, which requires teachers to guide students to analyze specific problems from the Marxist scientific view. An objective and fair analysis of the cultural values of Britain and the United States (the West) and the causes of their ideology In order to shape students' moral character and cultivate their sense of benevolence and justice, teachers can guide them to pay attention to the stories of ethnic minorities in American literary works. Teachers can also especially guide students to read the works about Chinese Americans in American literature, and explore the distortion and demonization of the image of Chinese Americans by white mainstream culture. When teachers teach American literary works, on the premise of comparability, they can contact the history and reality of China in terms of historical background, character analysis, etc., lead students to have discussions and help them improve their road confidence. Only by examining foreign literature from a broader perspective can students enhance their cultural self-confidence while absorbing and learning from foreign excellent traditional culture, and gain something from learning other than basic knowledge.

## 3. Necessity of Political Thought Education in American Literature Course

### 3.1. The need of national development in the new era

Throughout the history of China and foreign countries, university education always serves the needs of national development strategy, and the construction of knowledge system of university

curriculum is also affected by specific ideology and specific national policies. From the perspective of "curriculum thinking and politics", American literature curriculum can also cultivate students' ability to correctly understand and recognize the critical thinking of foreign literary and cultural phenomena, and prevent students from blindly advocating foreign thoughts and improperly evaluating foreign cultural phenomena under the influence of foreign negative ideology in the era of globalization. By reading and interpreting the classic American literary works in different periods, help students understand the cultural characteristics of different countries and enhance cultural self-confidence; At the same time, let them feel the difficulty and difficulty of self realization from different levels such as the character image, narrative angle, language style, image and theme in the works, and guide students to recognize the personal moral code with patriotism, dedication, integrity and friendly cultivation as the content. Curriculum political thought education is an important teaching idea reform to improve the development quality of China's higher education and return to education to pay attention to the essence and initial intention of educating people under the general pattern of "cultivating people by virtue", which requires teachers of every course to explore and practice consciously. China's higher education has entered a new era and started a new stage; The construction of new liberal arts and the rise of digital humanities both provide a unique background for the development of foreign language majors, and also give distinctive features to the political thought tasks of American literature courses. After the reform and opening up, China's foreign exchanges and studies in the fields of economy, trade, finance and diplomacy have increased significantly, and the country's demand for practical foreign language talents is even more urgent. The task of political thought education is particularly arduous and important, and it should be the vanguard and advance team of political thought education in college English courses.

### **3.2. The need of English discipline development in the new era**

After the reform and opening up, China's foreign exchanges and learning in the fields of economy, trade, finance and diplomacy have increased significantly, and the country's demand for practical foreign language talents is more urgent. The foreign language talents we train should not only be able to communicate smoothly, but also have a strong sense of family and country, adhere to the core socialist values, and maintain a high degree of political awareness and cultural self-confidence. In the past 70 years, English majors have not only trained a large number of English talents for national development and construction, but also trained a team of high-quality English teachers, accumulated rich subject experience and formed an important influence in the world. They should not be completely denied because of some setbacks. The deep tradition of social criticism in American literature reveals us all kinds of disadvantages of British and American capitalist society, which helps students deeply understand the essence of capitalist system. Foreign languages can be cross-integrated among different language majors. By integrating multilingual resources and advantages, Chinese and foreign cultures can be further integrated. Cross-cultural curriculum modules with the core goal of enhancing students' cross-cultural vision, cross-cultural ability and global awareness should be built, and a series of high-level cross-cultural general education courses in international cooperation and high-level international courses should be built. "American Literature" course is at the forefront of the intersection of Chinese and Western cultural values. It not only undertakes the task of cultivating English majors' basic language skills and humanistic quality, but also undertakes the mission of cultivating socialist builders and successors for the country. It plays an important role in the political thought education system in colleges and universities. American literature has always been a traditional course for English majors in colleges and universities in China, and it plays an important role in cultivating qualified English talents. Nowadays, the world is at the turning point of a new round of technological and industrial revolution, and the construction of new engineering, new liberal arts and new agriculture must keep pace with the times. It is especially important to learn and master foreign languages, which can guide students to think about and cope with the future technological and industrial revolution and better participate in global governance services

#### 4. Conclusions

The political thought construction of college curriculum defines the political thought functions of all courses, including American literature, and embodies the historical mission of college education in the new era. The political thought construction of American literature curriculum is not only the need of national construction, but also the need of discipline development; It has both strong urgency and distinct feasibility. It is an important opportunity for American literature curriculum to return to the main body from subsidiary. The purpose of Political thought course is to tap the political thought resources of professional courses and give full play to the purpose of classroom teaching. The course aims to cultivate students' language expression ability, literary criticism level and art appreciation ability through reading and appreciation of American literary originals. From the perspective of multi-dimensional "curriculum thinking and politics", the construction of American Literature Curriculum in Colleges and universities presents a new connotation and extension, which is endowed with a new significance and mission. To a certain extent, it breaks through the knowledge transfer curriculum model of foreign language teaching, which focuses on input only, realizes cross-border thinking between Chinese and English, and integrates the language ability training with the teaching objectives of cultural exchange and critical thinking ability training. The effectiveness of the political thought education in American literature courses is also subtle. The political thought education in American literature courses should be a work of "contributing to the present and benefiting the future", instead of quick success and instant benefit.

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