

# A study on the application of current affairs in college English blended teaching from the perspective of ideological and political education

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**Abstract:** *Ideological education is an important part of higher education. From the perspective of curriculum ideology and politics, this paper introduces the English teaching resources of current affairs materials as ideological and political elements into the blended teaching of college English, studies the English learning situation of college students in the blended teaching of college English integrated with current affairs, and further systematically and purposefully excavates the important value of current affairs as ideological and political elements in the blended teaching of college English. Through the reform of the overall teaching idea design of the course and the improvement of teaching methods in classroom teaching, a more reasonable and effective blended teaching design of college English is explored.*

**Keywords:** *Curriculum ideology and politics; Current affairs; College English blended teaching*

## 1. Introduction

With the increase in the proficiency of college English teachers in the use of English teaching resources for current affairs materials, current affairs as an important ideological and political element are bound to play an increasingly important role in college English teaching. With the improvement of the epidemic situation and the resumption of offline English teaching in colleges and universities, the mixed teaching of English in universities will enter a new stage of development. Therefore, the application and exploration of the value of integrating current affairs as an important ideological and political element into the integrated teaching of university English has certain theoretical guiding significance for offline teaching practice after the end of the epidemic.

## 2. The overall design idea of the curriculum ideology and politics

### 2.1. Teaching themes

College English II is a required course for non-English majors in sophomore year, the aim of this study is to improve the English listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation abilities of non-English majors. This course is based on the 21st Century College English S edition, a comprehensive course published by Fudan University Press and edited by Professor Zhai Xiangjun and others. The book contains eight units, respectively for Time Management, Inspirations, Tackling Problems, Conquering Illnesses, Medical Emergency, Career, Interpersonal Relationships, Sales.

### 2.2. Ideological and political elements

In December 2016, at the National Conference on ideological and political work in institutions of higher learning, it was stressed that the central link should be the establishment of moral values and the cultivation of people, and that ideological and political work should be carried out throughout the entire process of education and teaching, so as to achieve the goal of educating people in an all-round way, make great efforts to create a new situation for the development of our country's higher education. In December 2017, the party group of the Ministry of Education of the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed the establishment of a "Top 10" educational system in the basic tasks of the "Outline for the implementation of the project to improve the quality of ideological and political work in colleges and universities", the first task system is the system of improving the quality of curriculum education.

The importance of politics in university education courses is self-evident, and the integration of current affairs materials into the classroom as ideological elements is a new attempt in online teaching of university English. College English online teaching is a new student teaching mode spawned by the epidemic, a product of the times, and an inevitable development of history. This course carefully analyzes the current situation and problems of online teaching of university English, and then introduces current affairs materials as ideological elements, explores the value of current affairs and politics in online teaching of university English, and further summarizes the specific operation methods and teaching experience of introducing current affairs materials into university English online teaching as ideological elements.

### ***2.3. Teaching methods***

On the basis of fully understanding the current situation of online teaching of university English, this course introduces current affairs materials as ideological and political elements into the online teaching of university English II. During the epidemic, there have been many "voices" in the world that have smeared China because they do not understand the truth or maliciously slander, which is very detrimental to China's development. Excellent English current affairs materials can not only meet the society's requirements for English learners in the new era, create enough learning freshness for university English online teaching, improve learners' learning interest, improve students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills<sup>[5]</sup>, and then promote the smooth progress of university English teaching, but also attract more students to make certain contributions to the dissemination of China's "voice". Enhance students' patriotic feelings and contribute to "spreading the Chinese voice in the world language"<sup>[4]</sup>.

## **3. The specific teaching implementation process**

The teaching process of University English II is strictly in accordance with the teaching schedule and reorganizes the teaching content in combination with the characteristics of blended teaching, mainly including the following links:

### ***3.1. Preparation before the start of the course***

Prepare excellent English teaching materials related to this course as a reserve resource before the start of the course. These resources, combined with current anti-epidemic events, will help students understand the current situation of China's fight against the epidemic, experience the happiness and pride of being a Chinese, and understand China's responsibility as a big country, so as to achieve the teaching purpose of quietly integrating ideology and politics into the classroom<sup>[3]</sup>. At the same time, the BB platform is used to establish an on-campus curriculum resource library, and relevant materials such as course introduction, syllabus, teaching plan, teaching content, teaching courseware, and reference materials are uploaded one week in advance. In addition, in order to facilitate communication with students, I have also established 4 QQ groups and 1 WeChat group.

### ***3.2. Before class***

According to the teaching plan of this semester, combined with the teaching content of College English II, complete the teaching design, teaching courseware, teaching videos, etc. before class. In the BB platform and QQ group, students release learning tasks and homework content in advance, and let students download relevant videos, documents, courseware and other teaching resources in advance.

### ***3.3. During class***

It adopts the combination of QQ group classroom live Q&A and online self-study. For basic knowledge points such as words, phrases, syntax, etc., organize students to consult the materials on their own; For the article understanding part, guide students to gradually enter the learning state through pre-recorded teaching videos and QQ group classroom live broadcasts, and dig deeper into the connotation of the article; For the reading training part, the exercises are supplemented by documents, courseware, and recorded instructional videos; For the extracurricular development part, combined with the epidemic problems concerned by students, excellent English learning materials are provided, and the curriculum and ideological and political integrity are fully integrated, so as to import the image

of Chinese as a big country in which the "do not shrink back, move forward bravely, help each other, and fight the epidemic with 1.4 billion Chinese sons and daughters", sublimating the students' patriotic feelings. Make full use of modern information tools such as QQ groups and WeChat groups for classroom interaction during the class.

### ***3.4. After class***

For knowledge points that still have questions, students can communicate with teachers through QQ groups or WeChat groups. After each learning task is completed, its related homework can be submitted through BB platform or email. Students can upload assignments by taking photos and recording audio,<sup>[1]</sup> and the students are highly motivated and the quality of the completed assignments is good. Offline teaching is mainly to check and fill in the gaps, and provide face-to-face guidance on difficult problems and weak links in the online teaching stage.

## **4. Teaching effect and reflection**

### ***4.1. Teaching effect***

From the perspective of online teaching, the first week of online teaching is in the stage of exploration, and since the second week, the formal process of class has been basically formed, the teaching content and teaching methods have been cooperated and recognized by the vast majority of students, and the interaction between teachers and students in the classroom and the completion of students' homework have been on the right track.<sup>[2]</sup> After the offline teaching began, a survey of the whole class showed that the students were receptive to the ideological elements that permeated each unit, and they preferred this step-by-step approach to the original long talk. Moreover, the English current affairs materials supplemented outside the classroom can enable students to keep abreast of the epidemic dynamics, learn English and understand national events, and have both.

### ***4.2. Teaching reflection***

In the face of the severe challenges brought by the epidemic to the normal teaching order of the school, combined with the curriculum and political requirements put forward by the Ministry of Education, after many investigations and careful considerations, I introduced current affairs materials as ideological elements into the teaching of English II in universities, which was recognized by students, and the teaching effect was initially remarkable. To this end, I summarize and reflect as follows:

Prepare in advance and discuss it repeatedly. Under the leadership of Director Sun, all the teachers of the English Teaching and Research Department have entered the preparation state two weeks before the start of the school, and the work of analyzing electronic teaching materials, writing lesson plans, and preparing courseware has been carried out. All teachers in the teaching and research department repeatedly carry out online teaching seminars through video conferencing through QQ group classroom, DingTalk, eyesight and other platforms to discuss teaching methods, select appropriate teaching platforms, and formulate appropriate teaching plans. The teachers of the teaching and research department divide labor and cooperate to produce courseware, and the content of the courseware is 100% consistent with the textbook, making up for the lack of teaching materials for students. At the beginning of the preparation, I actively asked Director Tang, Director Sun and other experienced teachers in the teaching and research department with many questions. Whether it is the technical issues of the teaching platform or the curriculum of the teaching content, they are eager to give me a lot of guidance.

Comprehensively carry out online teaching with full coverage. When the school was scheduled to start on February 24, the course has begun to teach online normally, and we will make every effort to ensure the smooth progress of the teaching work. More than 96% of students are online per class. The offline teaching survey found that students generally feel that the classroom has become more interesting, the content is rich and colorful, and the learning is more efficient. However, the platform required for online teaching needs to further improve service support, and some students report that they sometimes cannot enter the QQ group class on time or submit homework; The hardware facilities required for online teaching need to be prepared in advance and debugged in advance, such as computers, mobile phones, tablets, headphones, microphones, speakers, etc.; The software required for online teaching needs to be mastered by teachers in advance. The instructional video I recorded before

the first class could not be inserted into the sound, and then I consulted the materials, consulted the technical staff, and repeatedly tried to record to solve the problem.

The teaching platform is diversified and the teaching content is rich and colorful. According to the characteristics of this course, I have appropriately selected the appropriate teaching platform, including QQ group classroom, DingTalk, BB platform and other teaching platforms. At the same time, make full use of modern communication tools such as WeChat groups, QQ groups, and mailboxes to upload courseware, documents, audio, video and other related teaching resources.

Teaching methods are diverse and online classes are interesting. In order to avoid the drawbacks of online classes, I repeatedly discussed how to better improve the attractiveness of the classroom. In addition to basic live teaching, instructional video recording, time-limited reading training and other teaching sessions, I also trained students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through fun dubbing, selfie anti-epidemic English speech video audio, learning anti-epidemic English songs, and watching front-line anti-epidemic current affairs records. The infiltration of the ideological and political elements of the curriculum requires teachers to spend more time and effort to improve the attractiveness of the curriculum, fully mobilize the enthusiasm of students, pay attention to the psychological state of students in a timely manner, and adjust the teaching design in a timely manner according to the adaptation of students <sup>[4]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

With the development of modern information technology and network multimedia, education must also improve teaching technology and teaching methods with the changes of the times. Combining traditional teaching methods with modern information-based teaching methods, absorbing the advantages of both, making the current teaching methods more in line with the needs of social development and the comprehensive requirements of contemporary college students for the combination of various teaching technologies, is an inevitable requirement for education and teaching to keep pace with the times, and is also an inevitable choice for the development of teaching history. Through the reform of college English teaching materials, the revision of teaching syllabus and the improvement of classroom teaching methods, the combination of college English mixed teaching mode and students' ideological and political course education can cultivate college students who are in line with the development of the times and the needs of the times and the country that match the mainstream values of society. It is an important research topic in the cultivation of college students' moral education and is also an important part of cultivating college students with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, beauty and labor.

Family affairs, national affairs, care about everything, pay attention to current affairs and politics, master real-time dynamics, and always combine their own learning, thoughts and values with the development of the nation and the progress of the country. It is also an important channel for contemporary college students to become comprehensive talents. The combination of current affairs politics and ideological and political education in college English blended teaching plays an important role in broadening college students' horizons, shaping their values and accumulating their ideology and morality. It is also an important foundation for students to go to society after graduation and contribute to the country. Contemporary college students should care about the motherland, love the motherland, and firmly bind their own destiny with the motherland.

How to maximize the educational and learning-promoting functions of current affairs as an ideological and political element in college English blended teaching will continue to attract more researchers' attention. We also hope to excavate more ideological and political elements in college English courses, maximize the high-quality combination with modern information technology, and cultivate high-quality contemporary college students who have both ability and political integrity, care for society and care for the motherland. It will be a persistent subject faced by colleges, families and society.

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