

Promoting the Spirit of Educationalists, Forging Master Teachers' Genuine Competence in Fostering Character through the Great Ideological and Political Course

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ABSTRACT

The important expositions on promoting the spirit of educationalists clarify the value pursuits and developmental direction for instructors of ideological and political theory courses in the new era. Guided by the spirit of educationalists, ideological and political theory teachers should strengthen their convictions and beliefs, cultivate a deep commitment to educating students, hone their professional competencies, and broaden their horizons. By striving to enhance their political literacy and pedagogical capabilities, they can truly shoulder the historic responsibility of "cultivating people for the Party and nurturing talent for the country" and deliver ideological and political theory courses that students genuinely appreciate and benefit from throughout their lives.

KEYWORDS

spirit of educationalists; Great Ideological and Political Course; educational competence; teacher development

With the deepening implementation of the Strategy of Building a Powerful Education Nation, the concept of the "Chinese spirit of educationalists" has been formally articulated and profoundly elucidated, providing robust ideological impetus and spiritual nourishment for the development of teaching staff in the new era. As the cornerstone course for fostering character and civic virtue, the ideological and political theory course bears the mission of shaping souls and fostering character. This entails guiding students to establish ideals and convictions, elevate moral literacy, and practice responsibility. In the new era, teachers of ideological and political theory courses should consciously embrace the spirit of educationalists as their guide. Anchored in the duty of "cultivating people for the Party and nurturing talent for the country", they must forge genuine competence in fostering character through: strengthening political orientation, cultivating moral integrity, enhancing professional capabilities, and refining pedagogical wisdom.

These teachers must not only possess firm political stances and profound humanistic grounding but also continuously elevate their vision, cultural literacy, and value-guidance competence. Embracing the mission of "Master Teachers", they should guide students to establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values amid profound transformations of the new era, thereby enabling the ideological and political theory course to expound profoundly, elucidate thoroughly, and present vividly.

Promoting the spirit of educationalists constitutes the fundamental pathway for ideological and political theory teachers to achieve personal growth and advance the high-quality development of the "Great Ideological and Political Course" in the new era.

1 Forging Genuine Political Guidance Competence through the Conviction of "Serving the Nation with Utmost Sincerity and Selflessness"

Ideals and convictions, clarified through abstraction and logic, ascend to a form of spiritual affirmation that serves as a guiding force.¹ Ideological and political theory teachers in the new era must consistently integrate ideals and convictions education throughout the entire teaching process. They must steadfastly believe in Marxism, adhere to the conviction in socialism with Chinese characteristics, maintain confidence in realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, and root their educational mission deeply within the great cause of the Party and the people. This entails embracing lofty ideals, embodying selflessness, shouldering responsibility, and standing on solid ground. As key agents in fulfilling the fundamental task of fostering character and civic virtue, ideological and political theory teachers must maintain unwavering alignment with the Party Central Committee in political orientation. They must consciously arm themselves with the Party's innovative theories, using them to guide their practice and enhance their teaching. The commitment to "serving the nation with utmost sincerity" upheld by these teachers is not merely a spiritual character trait but also a

¹ Wang Xiaoxu. (2024). The Connotation, Cultural Foundation and Practical Approach of the Growth of Ideological and Political Teachers Guided by the Educator's Spirit. *Journal of Jiangxi Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 57(1).

political pursuit and the original aspiration of education. It represents a practical consciousness that intimately connects personal value with the destiny of the nation and its people. As stated in *The Doctrine of the Mean*: "Sincerity is the Way of Heaven. To think how to be sincere is the way of man." Only by remaining steadfast in their ideals and convictions and cultivating profound patriotic sentiments can they guide students to establish correct political orientations and value stances. In imparting knowledge and resolving doubts, they shoulder the epochal mission of "cultivating people for the Party and nurturing talent for the country," thereby genuinely fulfilling the guiding role of ideological and political theory courses in fostering character and civic virtue.

2 Forging Genuine Inspirational Competence through Moral Sentiments of "Setting Standards with Words and Exemplifying with Deeds"

Teacher ethics and conduct are the primary criteria for evaluating the quality of ideological and political theory teachers.² Confucius stated: "If a man is upright, his orders will be executed without being given; if he is not upright, his orders will not be obeyed even if given." Ideological and political theory teachers must not only "impart knowledge, resolve doubts, and teach the Way" but also set life examples for students through noble moral character and upright words and deeds. In daily teaching, a teacher's every word and action subtly influences students' worldviews, outlooks on life, and values. Bearing the fundamental task of fostering character and civic virtue, ideological and political theory teachers must guide students to understand great virtue, uphold public morality, and strictly observe private morality through their own noble character. They must establish themselves through virtue, teach through virtue, and cultivate virtue through virtue. Only those who are upright themselves can be true teachers; only those whose integrity serves as a model can cultivate talent. Through personal inspiration, teachers integrate moral education into their example and instruction, enabling students to accept truth cognitively and resonate emotionally, thereby internalizing it and manifesting it in action. This not only contributes to forming a healthy and uplifting campus ethos but also lays a solid moral foundation for students to enter society and serve the nation.

3 Forging Genuine Pedagogical Innovation Competence through Educational Wisdom of "Enlightening Minds, Nurturing Hearts, and Teaching According to Aptitude"

Fostering character is the essential purpose of education.³ Ideological and political theory teachers should deeply grasp students' ideological characteristics and developmental patterns. They must focus on persuading through reason, moving through emotion, and enlightening through intellect, adhering to content substance while innovating methods. The educational philosophy of "silently nourishing like rain" should permeate the entire teaching process, enabling students to achieve ideological identification and emotional resonance subtly. Only with profound educational wisdom can teachers adeptly guide students according to circumstances and tailor strategies to individuals, mastering the "degree" and "momentum" in teaching to effectively enhance the attractiveness, relevance, and effectiveness of instruction. As Tao Xingzhi said: "Through thousands of teachings, teach people to seek truth; through thousands of learnings, learn to be genuine persons." Ideological and political theory teachers should employ heuristic and guided teaching methods to stimulate student thinking. They should realize the shift from "imparting knowledge" to "fostering character" in educational practice, making teaching a process that equally emphasizes intellectual enlightenment and ideological guidance. This truly achieves the core mission of "fostering character and civic virtue," demonstrating the vitality and creativity of ideological and political theory courses in the development of education in the new era.

4 Forging Genuine Competence in Practice-Oriented Education through the Diligent and Truth-Seeking Attitude of "Studying Assiduously, Acting Resolutely, Seeking Truth, and Innovating"

Ideological and political theory teachers in the new era must possess not only firm political stances and noble moral sentiments but also a spiritual realm that constantly pursues truth and a pragmatic scholarly attitude. As stated in *The Great Learning*: "The more clearly one understands, the more resolutely one acts; the more resolutely one acts, the clearer one's understanding becomes." Only by cultivating confidence through "assiduous study" and consolidating foundations

² Feng Xiujun, & Zou Yu. (2024). Guiding the High-Quality and Professional Development of Ideological and Political Theory Teachers with the Spirit of Educationalists. *China Higher Education*, (22).

³ Li Jing. (2024). Guiding the Integration of Teaching and Research for Ideological and Political Theory Teachers with the Spirit of Educationalists. *Teaching of Ideological and Political Courses*, (10).

through "resolute action" can one genuinely achieve the unity of knowledge and action, and true belief manifested in steadfast practice. The distinctive nature of ideological and political theory courses requires teachers to insist on learning as the foundation and practice as the catalyst for learning. They must constantly renew their understanding through theoretical study and seek knowledge through practical refinement, thereby truly disseminating truth with genuine scholarship and fulfilling their mission through authentic action. Simultaneously, teachers should respond to the trends of the times and educational reform, addressing the diversified thinking patterns and value demands of students in the new era with an innovative spirit. They must continuously explore updates in teaching philosophies, course content, and modes of expression, enhancing the appeal and impact of ideological and political theory courses through a curriculum system that is more contemporary, intellectually profound, and relatable. Thus, through the integration of knowledge and action, they demonstrate the responsibility and professionalism of ideological and political theory teachers in the new era.

5 Forging Genuine Educational Affection Competence through the Benevolence of "Finding Joy in Teaching, Loving Students, and Being Willing to Dedicate"

Love is the soul of education and the supporting force enabling teachers to stand firm on the podium and dedicate themselves to education.⁴ As a key course for fostering character and civic virtue, the educational effectiveness of ideological and political theory courses is manifested not only in knowledge transmission but also in the profound emotional exchange and spiritual resonance between teachers and students. Only by treating students with benevolence can teachers truly enter their inner world, establishing bonds of mutual trust and understanding, thereby transforming education from "imparting knowledge and the Way" to "nurturing hearts and fostering character." It is precisely through this gentle, water-like educational sentiment that ideological and political theory teachers guide students to "fasten the first button of life," enabling them to establish correct ideals, beliefs, and value pursuits in a subtle, nourishing manner. Against the backdrop of the new era, where young students are intellectually active and have diverse demands, teachers are even more needed to understand, guide, and accompany their growth with deep affection. Teachers' willingness to dedicate themselves selflessly reflects loyalty and dedication to the educational cause, as well as profound concern for students' all-round development. As stated in *The Book of Rites - Record of Learning*: "Being close to the teacher, one believes in his Way." Only when students feel close to their teacher will they be convinced by what the teacher says and teaches; the transmission of emotion will then transform into ideological guidance and character shaping. Therefore, ideological and political theory teachers must inspire students and warm hearts with benevolence, nurturing students' spiritual world like the spring rain, guiding them to grow into new-era individuals with both moral integrity and professional competence.

6 Forging Genuine Value Guidance Competence through the Aspiration to "Embrace the World and Cultivate through Culture"

Ideological and political theory teachers in the new era must transcend narrow disciplinary boundaries and parochial perspectives. They require extensive knowledge in philosophy, social sciences, and natural sciences, coupled with broad international vision and deep historical perspective,⁵ in order to grasp major trends, lead directions, and enlighten wisdom in their teaching. Teachers should base themselves on the excellent traditional Chinese culture, deeply grasp the fundamental principles of Marxism, integrate Chinese and foreign knowledge, and connect the ancient with the modern. This enables them to construct a comprehensive knowledge system and theoretical literacy, making the classroom a crucial platform for disseminating advanced thought and shaping the spirit of the times. *The Great Learning* states: "The Way of the Great Learning lies in manifesting illustrious virtue, in loving the people, and in resting in the highest excellence." Ideological and political theory teachers should take the responsibility of cultural cultivation as their mission. They must understand contemporary issues within historical depth and explain the Chinese path amidst global trends, helping students establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values. Through lofty vision and profound cultural commitment, teachers guide students to contemplate their personal destinies and the nation's future through the lens of Chinese modernization, thereby genuinely accomplishing the fundamental task of fostering character and civic virtue.

⁴ Qu JianwuWang, & Xiaoxue. (2025). Lecturing Ideological-Political Courses Effectively with the Spirit of the Educator. *Journal of Ideological & Theoretical Education*, (2).

⁵ Tian Xinming (2025). Exploring the Essence and Laws of Ideological and Political Theory Courses. *Studies on Marxist Theory*, (11).

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