



Delivering Ideological and Political Theory Courses with Sound Reasoning to Strengthen the Foundation of University Students' Ideals and Beliefs

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Abstract. Based on the understanding and interpretation of the fundamental principles of Marxism, combined with China's specific realities, this paper reveals the historical inevitability of the birth and development of the Communist Party of China. By analyzing the century-long struggle and journey of the Communist Party of China, it emphasizes the crucial role of ideological and political theory courses in guiding university students on their path forward. Through adhering to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, it demonstrates how these courses serve as beacons illuminating the way for university students. By highlighting the cornerstone role of the party's leadership in national rejuvenation, it argues that ideological and political theory courses set sail for the youth's dream voyage. This paper aims to comprehensively demonstrate the unique value and far-reaching significance of ideological and political theory courses in cultivating university students' ideals and beliefs, historical awareness, and contemporary responsibilities through these four dimensions.

Keywords: Ideological and Political Theory Courses, University Students, Ideals and Beliefs.

1 Introduction

Education is a major priority for both the country and the Party. General Secretary Xi Jinping has shown great concern for ideological and political theory teaching. He has delivered a series of important speeches and insightful expositions on various significant occasions. He particularly emphasized that to fulfill the fundamental task of fostering virtue through education and provide satisfactory answers to the fundamental questions of who to cultivate, how to cultivate, and for whom to cultivate, the key lies in adhering to the leadership of the Party. During his visit to Renmin University of China, Xi Jinping emphasized that the key to whether ideological and political theory courses can play their due role in fostering virtue through education lies in whether they are given sufficient attention, whether they are adaptable, and whether they are well-executed. The essence of these courses is to convey principles, and it is important to

focus on methodology, ensuring that principles are explained in depth, thoroughly, and vividly. Teachers should teach with dedication, while university students should comprehend with concentration, aiming to achieve heart-to-heart communication, inspire wisdom and nurture the mind, and arouse fighting spirit.^[1] This incisive discussion profoundly elucidates the dialectical unity between ideological and theoretical construction and classroom teaching in higher education from a higher perspective, broader vision, and deeper level. It provides clear direction for teachers to conduct research on ideological and political theories and seek effective classroom instruction. It holds far-reaching significance for consolidating and strengthening the foundation of Sinicization of Marxism, shaping souls and nurturing people, and cultivating builders and successors for comprehensively building socialist modernization. Therefore, delivering the principles in depth, clarity, and vitality is the soul of a good ideological and political theory course. It demonstrates the political, social, and personal values of these principles, enabling contemporary college students to grasp these values while understanding the principles, and transforming their understanding into the pursuit of beliefs, faiths, original aspirations, and ideals.

2 Ideological and Political Theory Courses Elucidate the Essence of the Birth of the Communist Party of China by Mastering the Fundamental Principles of Marxism

On the eve of the May Fourth Movement in 1919, old China was in a state of dire distress, with the people suffering greatly. The founders of the Communist Party, such as Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu, saw Marxism amidst their pessimism and uncertainty. They firmly believed that only by adhering to Marxism could China be saved. Li Dazhao became the earliest propagator of Marxism in China. After the May Fourth Movement, he became even more committed to promoting Marxism and published *My View on Marxism* in the magazine *New Youth*, systematically introducing Marxist theory. At the symposium commemorating the 120th anniversary of Li Dazhao's birth, General Secretary Xi Jinping said, 'It was thanks to the arduous efforts of Comrade Li Dazhao and other revolutionaries that Marxism was widely disseminated in China, leading a large number of advanced youth to embrace Marxism and embark on the revolutionary path. It also promoted the close integration of Marxism with the workers' movement, enabling the Chinese working class to develop into a self-conscious class armed with Marxism.' With the promotion of a group of Communist pioneers such as Li Dazhao, Chen Duxiu, and Li Da, the revolutionary spark spread across the country, and Marxist study groups mushroomed rapidly throughout the land. Advanced young intellectuals, in order to save the nation from peril, seek a way out for the people, and fight for freedom for all, took Marxism as their guide, rallied national strength, and ignited a great socialist revolutionary movement. With immense force, they inspired the Chinese people and the Chinese nation with the aspiration and confidence to realize national rejuvenation.

Ideological and Political Theory Courses are specifically designed to systematically teach Marxist theory in the form of courses. They undertake the task of disseminating

Marxist standpoints, viewpoints, and methodologies, as well as elucidating the scientific theoretical system of Marxism.^[2] These courses not only impart the principles of Marxism but also explain the background, historical mission, and struggle of the Communist Party of China in the context of China's history and reality. Through studying Ideological and Political Theory Courses, university students can gain a profound understanding of the historical status and role of the Communist Party of China. They can comprehend why the Communist Party of China has become the ruling party in China, and how it has led the Chinese people towards prosperity and strength.^[3] After university students grasp the fundamental principles of Marxism and understand the rationale behind the timely emergence of the Communist Party of China, they can deeply comprehend the content taught in these courses.

3 Ideological and Political Theory Courses Lead the Way Forward by Providing Insight into the Communist Party of China's Century-Long Journey and Struggle

The Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party's Hundred Years of Struggle proposes that since its founding in 1921, the Communist Party of China has always regarded seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation as its original aspiration and mission, and has always adhered to the ideal of communism and the belief in socialism. It has united and led the people of all ethnic groups in China to make unremitting efforts to strive for national independence, liberation of the people, and the realization of national prosperity and people's happiness.^[4] For more than 100 years, the Communist Party of China has kept firmly in mind its original aspiration and mission, devoting itself wholeheartedly and tirelessly to lead the people in creating great achievements in the New Democratic Revolution, the Socialist Revolution and Construction, Reform and Opening-up, Socialist Modernization, and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It has gradually transformed an old China, which was once bullied and exploited by others, into a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious, and beautiful socialist modern power. The Chinese nation has achieved a great leap from standing up, becoming prosperous, to becoming strong, and has fulfilled the first centenary goal. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, people of all ethnic groups have struggled for a century, fundamentally changing the future and destiny of the Chinese people.

Ideological and Political Theory Courses serve as a crucial avenue for understanding the principles behind the Communist Party of China's century-long struggle. Through studying these courses, university students can systematically grasp the fundamental principles and methodologies of Marxism, as well as the theoretical system and practical experience of socialism with Chinese characteristics. These theoretical foundations provide a solid groundwork for comprehending the Communist Party of China's century-long journey. By studying the Party's history, students can learn about its struggle and great achievements in different historical periods, thereby gaining a deeper under-

standing of the Party's historical mission and goals. Furthermore, Ideological and Political Theory Courses also guide students to conduct critical analyses of historical events, cultivating their independent thinking skills and sense of historical responsibility. These courses inspire students' patriotic feelings and national pride, fostering an emotional resonance that helps them more profoundly understand the Party's historical mission and goals, thereby strengthening their belief in and loyalty to the Party.^[5]

4 Ideological and Political Theory Courses Illuminate the Beacon for Progress by Adhering to the Path of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era

President Xi Jinping has pointed out, 'To learn from history and forge ahead into the future, we must uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics.'^[6] Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a fundamental achievement gained by the Party in leading the people through a century of struggle and at great cost. It represents the correct path to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Based on the laws of social development, socialism with Chinese characteristics suits China's basic national conditions and is also the fundamental aspiration of people of all ethnic groups in China. In the process of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, President Xi Jinping has demonstrated far-sighted vision and meticulous planning, personally outlining a blueprint for China's development: from addressing basic food and clothing needs to achieving initial prosperity, to comprehensively building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, to basically achieving socialist modernization, and ultimately to building China into a powerful socialist modern country.^[4] Socialism with Chinese characteristics determines the development direction, future, and destiny of contemporary China, and its goal is to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. On the journey in the new era, we must adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and firmly uphold the confidence in the path, theory, system, and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics. We should strive to be pioneers and trailblazers on the journey to realizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

Ideological and Political Theory Courses serve as a crucial platform for imparting the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Through studying these courses, university students can systematically grasp the basic principles, development process, and practical significance of socialism with Chinese characteristics, thereby enhancing their sense of identity and self-confidence in it. By learning about the Party's guidelines, policies, and national laws and regulations, university students can gain a deeper understanding of the political system, political institutions, and political culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics, thus increasing their political sensitivity and execution capabilities. These courses guide university students in establishing a correct worldview, outlook on life, and values, helping them develop a positive and enterprising spiritual demeanor. This guidance on value orientation aids university students in exerting their intelligence and abilities in the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, contributing to the realization of the Chinese Dream

of national rejuvenation. To better leverage the crucial role of ideological and political theory courses, the country has continuously strengthened the construction of the ideological and political work team. From 2012 to 2024, the number of full-time teachers for ideological and political courses in universities nationwide has seen significant growth, increasing from 37,000 to 117,000. Meanwhile, the ranks of university counselors have also expanded substantially, from 142,000 to 279,000.^[7] This initiative not only ensures the quality and effectiveness of ideological and political theory courses but also provides more professional and comprehensive ideological and political education services for university students, further promoting their in-depth study and practical application of the theories of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

5 Ideological and Political Theory Courses Set Sail on the Journey of Dreams, Laying the Foundation for Revival through Party Leadership

President Xi Jinping has said, 'The Communist Party of China is a party that seeks happiness for the Chinese people and also strives for the cause of human progress.'

^[8]History has proven that at every critical juncture in the various periods of China's revolution, it was the Communist Party of China that turned the tide, took the helm, and led the people of all ethnic groups in the country to overcome one difficulty after another, saving them from peril and steering them towards a prosperous, happy, and bright path. During the period of New Democracy, the leadership led the people through bloody battles with unyielding perseverance, overthrew the three mountains that oppressed the people, and achieved national independence and liberation. During the period of socialist revolution and construction, the leadership guided the entire nation to be self-reliant and strive for strength, constructing many human miracles such as the Yangtze River Bridge, the Red Flag Canal, and the "Two Bombs and One Satellite." During the period of reform and opening-up and socialist modernization, the leadership guided the entire nation to emancipate their minds, forge ahead with determination, and steadfastly promoted reform and opening-up, successfully opening up the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, with a focus on poverty alleviation, giving priority to ecological development, improving people's well-being, and promoting common prosperity for all people, great achievements of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era have been created. Judging from the significant achievements and historical experience gained through the century-long struggle of the Party, after the baptism of blood and fire, the Communist Party of China has already been tempered into a body of unyielding strength, possessing the ability, wisdom, responsibility, and courage to fulfill the historical mission of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Rooted among the people, the Communist Party of China is the backbone of the people. Only by adhering to the leadership of the Communist Party can the people obtain a greater, more abundant, and better sense of gain, happiness, and security.

Ideological and Political Theory Courses serve as a vital forum for elucidating and promoting the leadership of the Communist Party of China. By studying the Party's

theories and advanced deeds, university students can deeply recognize the importance of Party leadership for national development and national rejuvenation, thereby fostering correct values and firming their confidence and determination to follow the Party. Through learning about the Party's struggle and great achievements, university students can deeply understand their responsibilities and duties as youth in the new era, thus becoming more actively engaged in the cause of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. To fully support and enhance the construction of ideological and political courses in colleges and universities, the Ministry of Education has established a special "Prosperity Plan for Philosophy and Social Sciences in Higher Education," with an annual special fund of no less than 450 million Chinese yuan. This plan aims to ensure the sustained prosperity and development of this educational field, laying a solid foundation for cultivating more high-quality talents with firm ideals, beliefs, and a strong sense of responsibility for the times.

6 Conclusion

Ideological and political theory courses occupy a central position in transmitting and promoting the theories and spirit of the Communist Party. They closely adhere to the Party's principles, providing in-depth analysis of the fundamental principles of Marxism, and enabling us to clearly understand the historical development of the Communist Party of China and the legitimacy of its leadership position. The Party's century-long struggle, marked by great waves of change, has not only strengthened our loyalty and faith in the Party but also inspired our patriotic fervor and sense of responsibility for the times. High-quality ideological and political theory courses serve as a bridge for internalizing the Party's advanced theories and noble spirit into our personal beliefs and action guides. They lay a solid foundation for the ideals and beliefs of university students, endowing them with a strong sense of responsibility and mission, and providing inexhaustible impetus for the great cause of national rejuvenation.^[9] Looking ahead, we should continue to uphold the Party's core leadership position, deepen our study and research of Marxism, remember the Party's century-long struggle, and, more importantly, closely adhere to the Party's principles, deliver well-taught ideological and political theory courses, guide university students in establishing correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and work together tirelessly towards the realization of the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation.

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