Explore the World and Life: An Exploration of the Ideological and Political Construction Ideas of Econometrics
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ABSTRACT
Econometrics is considered as an essential core course for economics majors at local art colleges and universities. More systematic design and characteristic construction are required in the "gene integration" of curriculum ideological and political construction. Professional knowledge, industrial development, local strategies, as well as ideological and political elements are seamlessly connected to extend the breadth, depth and affection of Econometrics. The methodological foundation and application cases are started with to explore ideological and political elements and establish a research-based teaching concept that highlights foundation and ideological and political construction. Research on scientific problems is seen as a starting point to improve the teaching effect of curriculum ideological and political construction and students' innovation ability.

Keywords: Econometrics, Curriculum ideological and political construction, Art colleges and universities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Econometrics aims to develop students' ability to explore the world

Econometrics is one of the core courses of economics majors designated by the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China, and a course of applied economics. For all local art colleges and universities that have established the economics and management major, Econometrics is one of the core application courses.

The top priority of education on economics majors is to develop students' abilities of economic thinking, including the ability to observe, analyze and solve problems, especially economic intuition and thinking, from the perspective of economics. Econometrics occupies an important position in economics education. By revealing the objectively existing relationships in economic activities, this course aims to develop students, scientific speculative ability and ability to explore the world and laws. Econometric analysis methods have been widely used in various fields of macroeconomics and microeconomics, and become an indispensable tool for studying the theories and practical problems of economics [1]. By learning this course, students can understand basic ideas and principles of econometric modeling, get familiar with the basic methods and steps of econometric analysis, and gain the ability to describe and analyze real economic problems by using econometric models so as to enable the study and research of econometrics to be on a scientific and empirical basis, and to lay a solid foundation for the objective cognition towards the world [2].

1.2. The breadth, depth and affection of Econometrics need to be extended

It was proposed in the Outline for the Implementation of Ideological and Political Work Quality Improvement Projects at Colleges and Universities, issued by the Ministry of Education in 2017, that it is necessary to vigorously promote the classroom teaching reform with the goal of "curriculum ideological and political construction". The Outline for Curriculum Ideological and Political Construction in Higher Education Institutions, issued by the Ministry of Education in June 2020, clarifies that, when offering economics and management courses, it is necessary to accelerate the building of the philosophical and social science system, academic system and discourse system with Chinese characteristics, help students understand
national strategies, laws and regulations, as well as policies of related majors and industries, guide students to be deeply engaged in social practices and to pay attention to practical problems, and develop their professional qualities of benefiting the people, providing trustworthy service, and attaching equal importance to moral and legal education. It can be seen that the teaching and education of specialized courses should not only focus on the training of students’ innovation and entrepreneurship abilities, but also integrate “ideological and political” elements, which the inner requirements for the cultivation of top-class innovative talents [3].

As an important core course of economics majors, professional knowledge should be seamlessly connected to ideological and political elements in Econometrics so as to extend the breadth, depth and affection of the course.

Unlike theoretical and other specialized courses of economics, Econometrics involves multiple courses and professional knowledge, and requires certain mathematical knowledge as foundation. Thus, this course is relatively difficult. As a result, most of its teaching focuses are shifted to theoretical methods and computer operations [4]. The best teaching goal is to enable students to understand and learn to apply these methods for solving practical problems. In teaching design, "curriculum ideological and political construction" has not become another important teaching objective. Actually, it is not the fact that the course design of Econometrics that regards theories and methods as its main content has no element for ideological and political construction. And the epistemology for the problems and methods it studies has a good foundation for ideological and political construction. Thus, it is necessary to make a systematic sorting and refining, integrate ideological and political construction into the teaching practice, and play the ideological and political construction role of the course, namely clearing up the source of moral characters and realizing value guidance, from the perspective of curriculum ideological and political construction.

2. KEY ISSUES REGARDING IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL TEACHING OF ECONOMETRICS IN ART COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

2.1. The teaching content of Econometrics should highlight industry characteristics

Econometrics is considered as an important core course for economics majors at local art colleges and universities. More systematic design and characteristic construction are required in the "gene integration" of curriculum ideological and political construction [5].

Take Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology as an example. In the ideological and political construction of Econometrics, it is necessary to integrate Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of Three Represents, Scientific Outlook on Development, Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the characteristics of capital construction and development, and the characteristics of the apparel industry into curriculum design, and convert the rational econometrics knowledge system into a vivid moral education value system so as to make the objective and rigid methodology courses exhibit more humanistic and industry characteristics.

2.2. The curriculum teaching method of Econometrics should reflect “curriculum ideological and political education”

Econometrics involves the knowledge of multiple courses, and some mathematical knowledge should be gained in order to study this course. Thus, this course is relatively difficult. And it takes more time for students at art colleges and universities to master this course due to their less knowledge reserve and weak mathematical foundation. Thus, the teaching focus should be placed on the understanding of theoretical knowledge of the course and the computer operations regarding the course methods. It is the best teaching objective to make students understand and learn to apply these methods. Curriculum ideological and political construction has not been sufficiently highlighted and explicitly pointed out in teaching design [6].

In fact, it is not the fact that the course design of Econometrics has no foundation for ideological and political construction. There is no lack of ideological and political elements when the course is taught. Econometrics makes a quantitative analysis of various problems in macroeconomics and microeconomics and involves various political issues such as China’s economy and view on consumption. There are a large number of relevant ideological and political elements, and the curriculum ideological and political construction has a good foundation. Thus, it is necessary for Econometrics to adopt diversified teaching methods, solve the common problems that students don’t understand and are unable to apply this course, integrate the "ideological and political gene", and make this course more interesting and practical.
3. CONNATATIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMETRICS AT ART COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

3.1. Connotations of ideological and political construction of Econometrics

The basic connotations of ideological and political construction for Econometrics are defined based on the clear measurement of the necessity of ideological and political construction of the course. It is emphasized that course content design, teaching organization and teaching evaluation should always reflect the value orientation of socialist core values and basic social codes of ethics, and cover the value standards that involve multiple dimensions such as morality, aesthetics, innovation, and civic responsibility.

It is necessary to strengthen the top-level design of the ideological and political reform of Econometrics, establish a talent training plan guided by value based on the teaching content of Econometrics, and incorporate in due time moral education elements the history of economics, knowledge points and modeling methods, etc. Students’ ability to solve practical economic problems should be improved while a solid foundation for their professional knowledge of Econometrics is laid, so as to improve their professional abilities and qualities, enable them to gradually identify with the correct outlook on life, on world and on values, and subtly form a core value system of ideological and political construction of Econometrics.

3.2. Goals for ideological and political construction of Econometrics

3.2.1. Developing students' affections of home and country

Econometrics is a science that is highly scientific and also a social science with distinct value. It serves the interests of certain groups, which is an important feature of economics and other humanities and social sciences. Thus, students’ affection of home and country can be effectively developed in the ideological and political construction of the course.

3.2.2. Developing students' moral sentiment and humanistic feeling

Income inequality, poor-rich divide and other problems are common to be seen during the process of economic development. So, it is necessary to care about vulnerable groups. Enterprises should also fulfill their social responsibilities rather than only make a one-sided pursuit of their maximum economic benefits. In the era of digital economy, with the extensive application of big data and AI, there has been a call for the cultivation of students' humanistic care. All these are reflected in the ideological and political content system of the course, which can better cultivate the humanistic feeling of students.

3.2.3. Developing students' abilities to analyze and solve problems

Professional talent training is paid equal attention to in the ideological and political construction of Econometrics. The study of measuring research methods can train students’ abilities to analyze and solve problems. Also, case study can improve students’ skills of critical thinking, writing, interpretation, communication, expression and speech.

3.2.4. Training students' ability to combine theory with practice and apply what they have learnt

Econometrics education provides theories, methods and tools for analyzing and solving practical economic problems. The collection and analysis of practical economic phenomena and development data, modeling, estimation and inference are necessary for data-based quantitative empirical research. All these involve data processing and computing programming. Thus, students’ hands-on ability and ability to combine theories with practice can be better developed.

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION ON THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMETRICS AT ART COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

4.1. Exploration of ideological and political elements in course teaching content

4.1.1. Based on methodology

One of the ideas for exploring the ideological and political elements of Econometrics is to integrate Marxist methodologies, such as dialectical methodology, methodology of contradictions and other basic principles, based on the basic theoretical knowledge, basic knowledge and cutting-edge viewpoints of Econometrics, and apply induction & deduction, materialist dialectics, methodology of contradictions, practical methodology, and other philosophical methods to set, estimate, verify and apply models. This means exploring the philosophy in life based on the measurement method itself. For example, there are certain descriptions and requirements for samples in Econometrics. According to the thought of Econometrics, the more disordered the samples are, the easier it is for us to derive stable statistical laws from
the samples. In other words, we really don’t have the necessity to worry about the things that happen around us, either good or bad. And there is actually no need for us to be hypercritical of our seemingly unfair treatment by the God. Educating students to treat their life with a tolerant attitude will undoubtedly make us happy. It is the same with our career pursuit. There is nothing absolutely good or bad. And our life trajectory requires this kind of chaos and disorder in some certain years.

4.1.2. Based on application cases

The other idea for exploring the ideological and political elements of Econometrics is to be based on the selection of method-based application cases. Practical cases and a large amount of data are required in the establishment and application of econometric models. Thus, the selection of cases in the modeling process can highlight ideological and political elements. The selection of case data samples must first reflect the basic value orientation requirements of ideological and political construction in the course, or conform to the grand theme of the new era, or is in line with the orientation value and consciousness trends of social morality, aesthetics or innovation. For example, when constructing the study part of the time series model, the economic data after China’s reform and opening-up can be introduced to establish a model and explore the driving factors for China’s rapid rise and the source of China’s economic growth [7].

4.2. Realization of the ideological and political gene in the course teaching method

In order to better realize the ideological and political construction of Econometrics and establish the research-oriented teaching concept of "strong foundation and focus on ideological and political construction", research on scientific issues should be started with to enable students to learn knowledge, improve the abilities of ideological and political construction and of innovation in scientific explorations, increase teamwork awareness, and shift the focus from teachers’ teaching to students’ study.

For example, when learning to establish the dummy variable model, students are guided to select scientific topics, explore the influencing factors for consumption, and establish students’ correct and positive outlook and values from the perspectives of implementation of related policies and income level, etc.

4.3. Guarantee factors for curriculum ideological and political construction

Students are one of the guarantee factors for curriculum ideological and political construction. There should be an evaluation sense, effective evaluation and feedback improvement for the effect of measuring the curriculum ideological and political construction. And the questionnaire survey method is used for feedback evaluation of the ideological and political effect and to get students integrated into the ideological and political construction of the course.

Teachers are the other promise factor for curriculum ideological and political construction. The specialized knowledge, innovative thinking and practice, as well as ideological and political education abilities of teachers determine the effect of curriculum ideological and political teaching and the improvement of students’ innovation ability. Teachers of the major should improve their academic level, master the content of "ideological and political" course, improve their abilities of innovation and entrepreneurship, and also explore the effective coordination of specialized knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, as well as ideological and political resources.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Curriculum Ideological and Political Construction Education and Teaching Reform Project of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology (KCSZZT-2134), Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, 2021.

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