

# Teaching of English and American Literature and Humanistic Thoughts in Colleges and Universities

Jiaying Liu

Henan University of Animal Husbandry and Economy, Zhengzhou 450045, Henan, China.

**Abstract:** With the deepening of current education reforms, traditional educational concepts and models have undergone tremendous changes, especially in the teaching of English and American literature in colleges and universities. In order to keep up with the educational development of the times and promote the teaching of English and American literature to realize the new curriculum standards as soon as possible, the majority of frontline educators must actively explore effective measures for the penetration of humanistic ideas into the teaching of English and American literature, so as to actively resolve the current shortcomings in the teaching of English and American literature. Based on my own teaching experience, the author proposes teaching strategies for the penetration of English and American literature and humanistic ideas in colleges and universities.

**Keywords:** Colleges and Universities; Teaching of English and American Literature; Humanistic Thought

For a long time, English and American literature courses in colleges and universities have been important and difficult points in teaching. This is because the historical background and character relationships involved in the English and American literature courses are extremely complicated, so it is very easy to make students feel afraid of learning difficulties, which leads to unsatisfactory teaching effects. In order to effectively improve the current teaching difficulties in English and American literature courses, the author takes the problems existing in the teaching of English and American literature as the starting point, and explores the countermeasures for the penetration of English and American literature teaching and humanistic ideas, so as to alleviate the students' fear of the British and American literature courses and improve British and American literature has the function of teaching and educating people, and then achieves the improvement of overall teaching quality and efficiency.

## 1. The current teaching situation of English and American literature courses in colleges and universities

### 1.1 There is something wrong with the course arrangement

Judging from the current situation of English and American literature courses in colleges and universities, there are some unreasonable points in the current arrangement of this course. The reason for offering English and American literature courses is to improve students' cognitive and comprehension of foreign literature through literary works, and to guide students to establish correct three views. At the same time, due to the relevance of English and American literature

Copyright © 2021 Jiaying Liu

doi:10.18686/ahe.v5i7.3797

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

courses and English courses, in daily practice, teachers are also very easy to focus on the teaching of English and American literature to the level of English knowledge, failing to well infiltrate the education of humanities and thoughts in the courses of English and American literature. For a long time now, although students can achieve relatively excellent results in daily assessments and face-to-face examinations, they lack a certain degree of cultural understanding and social adaptability, and their hidden teaching effects have not been shown.

### **1.2 There is a lag in teaching methods**

At present, some colleges and universities still have many education colleagues who believe that English and American literature courses should be equivalent to English courses, so there is a clear lag in teaching methods. In daily classroom teaching, teachers are always in a dominant position under the traditional teaching mode, and it is difficult for students to have the opportunity to express their personal views and opinions. In this passive learning environment, the knowledge that students learn is forcibly instilled by teachers, which also makes their learning enthusiasm generally low; In addition, teachers do not actively pay attention to students' classroom performance and target students' efforts and progress are not encouraged and spurred. Students cannot feel the teacher's attention and attention, and the value of self-learning experience is not high. This is also very detrimental to the effective formation of students' humanistic quality.

### **1.3 The curriculum is more utilitarian**

The study of English and American literature courses is not only to provide students with a channel of foreign language communication, it is also a way for students to understand foreign cultures. Only by allowing students to truly grasp the connotation of English, can they independently carry out reading of English literature and gain an in-depth understanding of British and American cultural knowledge. The development of English and American literature courses in colleges and universities has formed a new breakthrough for students to learn English. Analyze and think, so as to increase the pride of their own national culture, and at the same time, it is more conducive to their handy course learning. However, the current English and American literature teaching in colleges and universities has not implemented corresponding patriotic feelings, humanistic thoughts and other emotional education in the curriculum, resulting in students' feelings for the country, the nation and the society are very weak, and they are unable to help students establish a good spirit of character and life. The deviation of outlook and values, which in turn restricted the improvement of his comprehensive cultural literacy.

## **2. Countermeasures to infiltrate humanistic ideas in the teaching of English and American literature in colleges and universities**

### **2.1 Enhance the penetration of humanistic ideas in the curriculum teaching goals**

In the process of teaching English and American literature in colleges and universities, teachers should try to maximize the vividness and flexibility of teaching content, and should not be limited to the original textbooks and teaching materials. In this regard, teachers can set several teaching goals at different levels and stages according to the teaching requirements of the course and combined with the students' own learning level and ability, and then design corresponding teaching activities on this basis. Teachers need to pay special attention to that, while drawing up hierarchical teaching goals, it is necessary to infiltrate humanistic thoughts throughout the teaching process. It is necessary to promote a high degree of integration of teaching content and humanistic thoughts, so that students can learn more useful and practical. Literary knowledge. In addition, teachers should also introduce some of the more popular social topics and important events in the English and American literature classes, and extend these teaching contents in combination with humanistic ideas, so that students can deepen their impressions, penetrate and understand more English and American literature works, and get in touch with them. Feel the various life states, so as to improve the students' humanistic quality in a natural process.

### **2.2 Construct innovative teaching models and continuously enrich teaching methods**

It can be seen that the teaching content involved in the English and American literature courses in colleges and universities is comprehensive and wide-ranging. Therefore, in order to help students improve their aesthetic responses to British and American literary works, teachers should maximize their status as the subject of the classroom, and create more platforms and spaces for students to freely express their personal opinions and opinions, so as to better cultivate

students' Appreciation of English and American literature. To help students understand the performance characteristics of British and American literary works, to understand the strong dissatisfaction and spiritual criticism of literary authors against the evil phenomenon of the British Church, and finally teachers should pay attention to guiding students to correctly understand the human nature of the distinction between good and evil and the helplessness of real life. In order to promote the teaching content of English and American literature courses to be richer and more diverse, teachers should make more use of modern and advanced teaching methods and methods, and use multimedia teaching technology to help students get in touch with and understand as much as possible the English and American literature of different ages and different themes. The works actively guide students to objectively analyze different customs, religious beliefs, and thinking patterns in Western culture from a dialectical ethical point of view, helping students to continuously broaden and extend their knowledge horizons, and promote them to have a more in-depth and comprehensive understanding of British and American literature.

### **2.3 Cultivate students' correct values**

The teaching themes of English and American literature courses in colleges and universities mainly come from the literary works of various western countries, and a large number of western literary works have their own philosophy and values. The ideological information conveyed in many English and American literary works will have varying degrees of impact on students, and as a teacher, you need to guide students to think in a correct and appropriate way, so that students can build a correct life on the basis of literary knowledge. We often say that literary works come from life, but it is higher than life itself. Therefore, the creation of many English and American literary works is also the most true reference to real life. Teachers should give students correct guidance in the classroom, form a good example for students, and help them achieve a comprehensive and coordinated development of morality and intelligence. Take the famous English and American literary novel "Jane Eyre" as an example. The novel tells the story of the heroine's death in her parents and helplessness, living a miserable life, and being bullied by her aunt and cousin at the same time. Disgusting, but even in such a difficult and hopeless life, the heroine still holds a firm belief in life, while studying and working diligently, while gaining the most from her honest, trustworthy, tenacious and unyielding personality charm precious love. Teachers can explain the character and spirit of the author's writing, so that students can more intuitively understand the character image and personality charm in literary works, and then obtain encouragement and encouragement to themselves, constantly shape their own personality qualities, and promote themselves continuously improve and improve.

## **3. Conclusion**

Generally speaking, the external function of English and American literature lies mainly in education. Through the study of English and American literature courses, students can acquire literary knowledge, improve cultural quality, and improve personality thinking; While its internal function is to read a large number of British and American literature works. It will also bring students a pleasant feeling of body and mind. Integrating the internal and external functions of British and American literature, we cannot ignore the significance of its education. Through the profound themes contained in British and American literature works, it is more effective than purely intuitive political beliefs to educate people. Therefore, teachers should actively guide students to study and read literary works in the teaching of English and American literature, so that students can immerse themselves in the rich literary perceptual world and deeply analyze the hidden philosophies and meanings, so as to gain deep thinking about themselves, life and world outlook. The humanistic qualities of the students will inevitably be sublimated in the literary interpretation.

## **References**

1. Sun H. The teaching of English and American literature and the penetration of humanistic ideas in colleges and universities. *Journal of Hubei Open Vocational College* 2020; 33(21): 146-148.
2. Lin L. An analysis of the penetration of English and American literature teaching and humanistic thoughts. *Literature Education (Part 2)* 2021; (6): 169-170.
3. Yao Y. The penetration of teaching and humanistic ideas in English and American literature. *Journal of Hubei Correspondence University* 2017; 30(23): 189-191.