

Studying and Teaching Politics with the Support of Technology

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Abstract:

Considered as a hard learning subject, politics faces many difficulties in attracting students. There is a fact that most students study this subject with the sole purpose of passing the subject, only a few learn because of passion. Along with the development and application of technology in all aspects of life, it is inevitable that the change and adaptation of teaching politics are rather necessary. Technology will surely support and create interest in these subjects. The paper was also completed by using online surveys and reading other valuable materials. This paper mentions politics as a subject being taught in Vietnam, the actual teaching status in recent time, then offer solutions to apply technology in teaching and learning it. In the paper, a survey was also conducted to determine the role of technology in teaching and learning this challenging subject. From this, we can see that, with the professional knowledge of lecturers, the application of technology will help improve the quality of teaching and learning.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In order to develop and integrate the national economy with the goal of having a qualified and talented human resource, all Vietnamese universities have included political theory in the curriculum. In the digital age, education will vary widely from the educational environment, the role of teachers and learners to teaching methods. Therefore, the innovation of teaching methods for political theory subjects at universities in Vietnam is an indispensable requirement. Up to now, these subjects have always been considered to be slow to innovate and lack practicality. With the support of technology, the teaching and learning of political subjects will be improved to bring students' interest and curiosity. Currently, there are many universities and lecturers applying technology to teaching but the effectiveness is not really high [1].

II. RESEARCH CONTENT

A. Political subjects in Vietnam

Political subjects are compulsory for all college and University students in Vietnam. Prior to September 2019, the discipline consisted of three subjects including basic

Principles of Marxism - Leninism, Ho Chi Minh Ideology, and the Revolutionary Line of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Currently, in the spirit of innovation to suit the practice of the Ministry of Education and Training, these three subjects split into 5 subjects including Marx - Lenin philosophy, Marx - Lenin political economy, Socialism Marx Science - Lenin, Ho Chi Minh Ideology, History of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

B. The importance of politics to students

Politics is an important subject in training programs at universities and colleges throughout the country. Students are young people who create the source for the contingent of intellectuals, who are the "pillars" and important "future owners" of the country. They really need to pay attention to training, education and retraining in all aspects and create conditions to become typical people for the Vietnamese human generation [2].

Studying political subjects will contribute to comprehensive human development. In addition to professional knowledge, students need to cultivate thought, morality, lifestyle, fostering patriotism; attention

to the community, etc. Political theoretical knowledge will guide the direction about politics; guide them to practical humanities; help them have genuine patriotism, etc. This is a premise for the country to have a human resource that is both good at professionalism and firm in the political and ethical stance, thereby bringing the country to a new height in the period of accelerating international integration. Students have the right viewpoint, solid revolutionary stance and scientific methodology, which are conditions for students to proactively and confidently master advanced and modern science and technology [3].

Students are in the process of developing their intellect and personality. This is the period in which they are asserting their roles, positions and responsibilities to society. However, in addition to being brave, daring to think and to do as well as aspire take actions to fulfill their ideals, students also have an elated attitude, even reckless, risky, not experienced and experienced enough to have a way of thinking, evaluating values, choosing values in a rational spirit. Through learning the subjects of political theory, they will have necessary awareness of socialist ideology; firm belief in the leadership of the Party. From there, students will strive in learning and labor; having pure revolutionary ideals, self-mastery, rich in love for the homeland, building and firmly consolidating the ideal goals [4].

At present, hostile forces use many intoxicating and sophisticated tactics and forms such as the “peaceful evolution” scheme or “war without smoke, no fight, and no victory”, making Vietnamese people “transformed itself”. They specifically target the younger generation to entice them and stimulate them to pursue pragmatic lifestyles, disorienting the political direction. Studying political theory helps students identify the plots and tricks of hostile forces to proactively prevent and participate in the war.

C.Politics - A “dry” subject

The reality has changed a lot, but in the content of political theory subjects, it is still academic, making students feel dry, hard to understand and far from reality. That leads to students who are afraid of learning to become “frustrated” from theoretical subjects.

The curriculum and learning materials have been revised according to the national curriculum framework. The knowledge is organized in a “cramming” way and

learners have difficulty acquiring knowledge because of outdated learning methods.



Figure 1. A period of politics in Vietnam

In addition to reducing classes, many schools have implemented a combination of reducing the number of students in a class. Classes are held in a large hall with the number of more than 100, even 200 students (Figure 1). Because the class is large, the lecturers are difficult to control the class, the lecturers cannot implement positive teaching methods, the presentation becomes a “universal method”, and currently the interaction is not possible between teacher and learner. Some students learn to attend. The quality of teaching and learning in the subject has dropped and the results are low, making students feel away from political theory subjects.

Moreover, the level and method of teaching political theory subjects are still limited. To teach reasoning well, teachers must have reasoning qualifications. At the same time, they need a living capital, a rich social knowledge. Not only practical experience, teachers must also have general thinking. Besides many lecturers, they have made good use of electronic lesson plans, diagrams, charts, pictures, documentaries. However, a large part of the lecturers are still slow to innovate in the method. Some lecturers use electronic lesson plans ineffectively, following the style of projection on the screen. In some schools, facilities are lacking, there are no computers, projectors, speakers, learning materials ... so teachers have difficulty applying positive teaching methods. The situation of teachers reading and copying is still very much. The lack of talk time makes the lecture boring and students are not interested in learning.

Students lack a background in historical and social

knowledge and little practical experience. In order to successfully study political theory subjects, students must have a background in social sciences knowledge. However, in recent years, high school students are less interested in social sciences, especially in history, except for some students who choose to take college entrance exams with social subjects. The gap in social knowledge in high school is an obstacle for students to acquire knowledge of political theory subjects.

In addition to the lack of social knowledge, Vietnamese students have little practical experience and little understanding of the international, domestic economic, political, social situation, making it more difficult to study theory of politics.

D. Application of technology in teaching

Application of information technology to teaching helps teachers and students improve creativity and become more flexible in their teaching and learning process. Specifically, lecturers and students are not only limited to existing knowledge but also learn more about other subjects such as informatics and learn visual and sound skills in design lesson; share lectures with colleagues, discuss and improve the quality of your lesson plan together [5].

1) Application of technology to find information and materials for teaching

The system of information and materials for teaching political disciplines is very rich and exists in many forms such as documents, books, figures, maps, diagrams, images, sounds, films. Those are important elements to building effective lectures. Application of technology to exploit information and materials for teaching is implemented in two directions. Firstly, exploit information and materials directly from the internet. Currently, there are many websites. The above information systems, along with the textbooks, are important documents for the preparation and design of lectures, as well as for the study, research and teaching of this subject. Secondly, extract materials from the system of tapes and discs. These tools are extremely useful for teachers in the preparation process and organize a class visually, vividly, attractive and more realistic. It also helps teachers and students update news, expand knowledge, and increase interaction from both sides [6].

2) Application of technology to design and present electronic lectures

a) Using Prezi software

Prezi is a very effective freeware that runs on prezi.com. This is a simple yet powerful tool to support the construction of extensive interactive maps. The lectures are intuitive; including simple, easy, impressive, and interactive videos and interactions (figure 2). Besides the basic effects, Prezi also provides users with many platforms and some interesting dynamic effects. Teachers can zoom in or out so students have an overview of the whole topic, or even the entire curriculum. [7].

The free version of Prezi is only allowed to run on the internet, but Prezi has a support program for cases and educational institutions, allowing us to download it for use without connecting to the Internet. To register, teachers need an email address with their own domain name instead of a free email address like Gmail or yahoo.

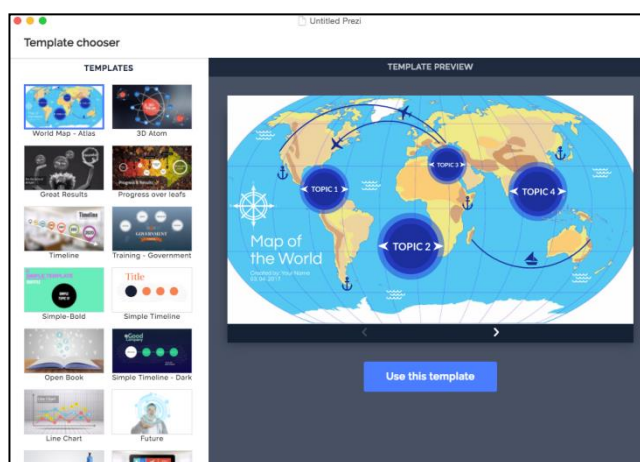


Figure 2. The interface of Prezi

With the characteristic of theory, political subjects always make listeners considered a dry subject, lack of attraction. Designing impressive, attractive and interactive slide shows is one of the most essential. Therefore, Prezi will help teachers teach more actively.

b) Using Microsoft PowerPoint software

PowerPoint is a tool that is very familiar to teachers when they need to prepare an electronic lesson plan for use with a projector or interactive whiteboard. Upgrading to a traditional lecture by using a PowerPoint presentation that combines images, diagrams, sound effects, music, or video clips will help teachers have a really engaging lecture. Lecturers can let students make presentations

using PowerPoint. Many instructors use PowerPoint to design games based on popular TV games, including “Adventure Games”, “The weakest link”, and “Who is a millionaire?” Currently, these models are available online so lecturers can download and edit content by searching “game models on PowerPoint”. This is a fun way to practice using a projector or interactive whiteboard in teaching and learning [8].

c) Using Kahoot

Kahoot - Teaching aids used in more than 160 countries around the world, more than 300,000 users and selected to use in prestigious international training seminars. Kahoot helps highlight lecture content, turning the classroom into an exciting playground.

With Kahoot, game theory is applied in teaching to attract attention, create excitement for students. The use of kahoot is extremely simple and convenient because users can use any browser to open without any difficulty. Instructors can remove players from the game or allow students to have cute names for increased comfort if allowed. In addition, Kahoot also has a good pool of shared puzzles from the community and of course all completely free.

However, besides the advantages, Kahoot also has disadvantages such as working only with multiple choice questions. Because this is a live game, the player must be in the same room at the same time. There is a maximum of 95 characters for the questions and 60 characters for the answers, but you can fix it by entering the questions as text [9].

d) Using Google Drive

We can use Google Drive as a powerful tool for teaching and learning. With 15 GB of free memory, teachers can store all teaching materials, reference videos, class photos, grades, etc. right on this Drive and share it with students without having to worry about storage space. Teachers can share class documents, videos or photos by students via Google Drive, use Google Sheets in Google Drive to enter student lists (full name, address, phone number, etc.) for the necessary cases. Google Sheets makes listing lists much easier and more convenient. For surveyed classes, Google Forms is a great choice. Teachers use Google Forms to create learner surveys. In addition, teachers can use Google Forms to create new classes, add assignments, grade assignments, and return students [10].

e) Making video clips and publicize student products.

Today's tools allow teachers and students to create

truly professional looking products when used on computers. Instructors can let students make short films, post them on the web class or on Google Drive, Facebook, Twitter to present their products and ideas. Or if they are really ambitious, teachers can organize a contest or a small class event in the classroom [11].

Survey And Discussion

We conducted a survey of 50 university students studying political subjects at some universities in Ho Chi Minh City. The survey shows that most students are not really interested in learning politics. Many of them chose the ways to read books or learn themselves. This shows the leading role of self-study for students of students and this also shows the less charismatic subject. To save time and carry out the survey effectively, we only designed four questions in clarify the attitude to politics.

Studying this subject is only compulsory, to some students, studying is just to pass the test. According to the survey data of students in the school, most students said that the initiative in student learning is most important. About 50% of students said that students gradually got into the habit of listening to lecturer, pre-class preparation and self-study methods that most students are also considered effective. There are many search information about the subject on the Internet or even read book before joining class and they can learn themselves [12].

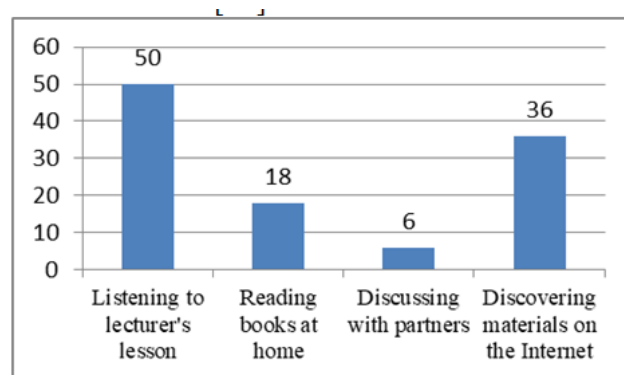


Figure 3. Approaches to political subjects

It can be seen that although every student is aware of self-study because it is so important, the effective self-study method is not easy and not all students will achieve the desired results. Also according to the survey, the application of technology, changing the way of teaching helps children be more motivated to learn.

After each lesson, the instructor shows the learners

how to systematize knowledge through building a course outline, through the use of technology applications. This requires learners to be proactive and perform after each lesson.

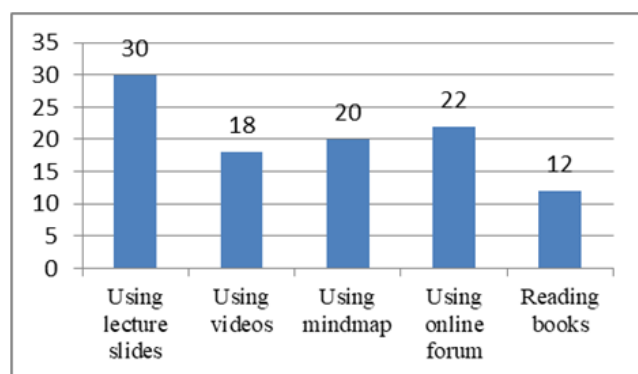


Figure 4. Effective ways to study politics

The various forms that students find interesting lessons include lecture slides, mind map, forum, etc. but the core issue is the “lecture slides” (60%). Designed by Prezi, systematizing knowledge with a mind map will help them save time to review without missing the necessary information, while increasing the ability to absorb and memorize lessons quickly. Students show their interests in learning as well as listening to the lessons in which there are colors, images, videos and brief sentences, which means that they have more motivation when learning this subject of politics. Reading books (12%) may be a challenging task to some students since the issues relating to politics are rather special [12] [13].

F. Recommendations

1) Using an online scoring system

Currently, some schools are requesting to switch to the grade book on the web. This provides an opportunity to track grades, attendance and class diagrams, and write reports about student progress. Students can check scores online. Teachers do not need to worry about bringing the report home but can log in from any computer.

Similarly, the final exam is done on the software of the school, using the intranet. Students do not need to be afraid of bad writing, all ink, torn paper, etc. The University also controls the use of documents due to the use of the intranet; as a result, marking paper is more convenient. For instructors, marking software is also extremely easy and fast. Lecturers do not need to bring paper to home, both unsafe and easily exposed

information. Entering points is also faster and more convenient because there is no need to enter hands, because all are displayed on the software and can be retrieved. The time to announce the points will be shortened and the departments and divisions will also have a link in working. Compared with traditional paper tests and exams, it is clear that the application of technology in exams and tests will bring many benefits.

2) Using the Online Forum to exchange

This is where the lecturer posts notices, answers questions (if any) of students, introduces books and reference materials related to the subject.

Teachers can use the forum to post content before and after class, use the reversed classroom model. Questions, content will be posted on the forum before coming to class. Then, lecturer and students solve it together in the classroom. After the lesson, lecturers will continue posting content, extended exercises and next questions for the next lesson [14].

In addition to talking with lecturers and other students in the classroom with a limited time, the forum will be a place to help overcome that. Students can ask questions or any documents on the forum, lecturers will answer directly instead of sending personal emails. Maybe that question will be a common question for many students, it is necessary for the instructor's answer to be made public to all other students. The material that students find is sometimes very useful for the subject, which faculty and other students can add to their resources.

Such an academic forum will stimulate students to be creative, ask questions, seek answers and communicate with each other unlimited space and time.

3) Technology support from the school

To do this, great support from the school is needed for all other subjects to be implemented in this form. It is thought that in the era of technological development, the practical application and the change of the school are absolutely necessary [15].

The school can build a system where lecturers and students can exchange lesson content, and can also test online assessment of students' self-study process [16].

Schools can also encourage the spirit of learning, promoting the role of technology to improve the quality of teaching through rewarding and encouraging spirit [17]. At the same time, the school should give lecturers and students access to information technology by supporting the cost of buying a personal computer or

equipping on-site computer systems [13].

4) Efforts from the lecturers

All of the methods outlined in this article will not be successful without a professional instructor. Teachers must update, be advanced, flexibly apply positive teaching methods, apply technology to teaching, and inspire both their learners and other teachers. Lesson content should be closely linked to career situations. Lecturers must be enthusiastic when applying technology in teaching, avoiding the conservative attitude, hesitation, fear of innovation [18].

Besides, technology is not the universal key. Teachers should know how to combine many methods together to get the best results. Applying technology in teaching political subjects is one of many advanced teaching methods today but it is not effective in all cases. Abuse in some situations will have side effects. How to use it, when needed, it requires teachers to be flexible and creative, not too dependent on being passive, following technology [13].

III. CONCLUSION

In the current period, lecturers need to focus on the use of information technology, social networks, and achievements of Industry 4.0 in teaching. The use of modern technology will help students to learn quickly and teachers will not put much pressure on lesson plans in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The paper only mentions the application of technology, but in reality there are many other issues which need to be combined to bring the most practical effect. With a specific subject like politics, the abandonment of conservative psychology and innovation is very important; we need to change the passive concept about the content and role of the subject and create a practical and interesting subject.

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