

# **A Study the Singing and Dramas in Yu Opera for Writing a Guidebook on Teaching 1st Year Students General Education in Shangqiu Normal University of Henan Province**

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## **Abstracts**

This study adopts mixed research methods, qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the research stage, interviews and observations were used. The researcher observed the learning status of first year students in Shangqiu Normal University. At the developmental stage, quantitative methods were used to draw conclusions through experimental design and statistical description. Thirty students in the first grade of Shangqiu Normal University were selected as experimental subjects for the Yu opera singing and drama teaching experiment. The effect of teaching Yu opera singing and drama was analyzed through pre-test and post-test.

Using the basic theoretical knowledge of Yu opera, combining the author's study and expert interviews, and after exploring and researching the available academic materials, mainly focusing on the singing and drama of Yu opera for in-depth study and analysis, this paper develops a course plan for the first-year general education students. The Yu opera guidebook consists of four parts: "Basic Theoretical Knowledge of Yu Opera", "Yu Opera Singing", "Yu Opera Drama", and "Yu Opera Stage Performance". This course plan is finalized after expert interviews and aims to explore how to teach, sing and perform Yu opera well and to improve the development of students' Yu opera appreciation and aesthetic ability.

**Keywords:** Yu Opera; General Education; Teaching; Musical Ability

## **Introduction**

This book aims to provide relevant teaching resources and guidance for 1st year university general education by studying the historical origins, artistic characteristics, cultural connotations, singing and repertoire, and teaching methods of Yu Opera. By studying the origin, development and evolution of Yu opera, one can gain a deeper understanding of the position and role of Yu opera in Chinese opera culture. At the same time, by analyzing the artistic characteristics, performance forms and cultural connotations of Yu opera, we can help students better understand and appreciate this unique art form. The ultimate goal is to develop a comprehensive guidebook to provide teaching resources and teaching methods for university general education courses on Yu opera singing and repertoire, and to help students gain a comprehensive understanding of the national art and cultural value of Yu opera in traditional Chinese opera.

### **The historical development and cultural connotation of Yu opera**

The historical development and cultural significance of Yu Opera (also known as Henan Yuju) have been extensively examined by scholars in various research works. These studies delve into different aspects of Yu Opera's evolution, cultural symbolism, contemporary adaptation, and resilience in a globalized context. The following literature review provides an overview of key research works that contribute to our understanding of Yu Opera's historical and cultural dimensions:

"Yu Opera: Tracing its Evolution Through Time," offers a comprehensive exploration of the historical evolution of Yu Opera. The study analyzes scripts, performance styles, and historical records to uncover how Yu Opera has adapted to the changing social, political, and cultural landscape over different dynasties. This provides valuable insights into the art form's resilience and ability to evolve while preserving its essence. Yu Meimei's research provides a meticulous exploration of the historical trajectory of Yu Opera, offering a comprehensive view of its origins and subsequent development. Through meticulous analysis of historical records, scripts, and performance styles, the study unveils the intricate adaptations that Yu Opera underwent over various dynasties. This detailed examination reveals how societal changes, political influences, and cultural shifts impacted the art form, transforming it while preserving its core essence. By tracing Yu Opera's evolution, Yu Meimei's work contributes to a deeper understanding of how the opera genre navigated through centuries while remaining culturally significant (Yu, 2013).

"The Cultural Symbolism of Yu Opera," delves into the symbolic imagery, stories, and themes embedded within Yu Opera performances. By examining specific plays and characters, Wang uncovers the deeper cultural meanings conveyed through the art form. This sheds light on how Yu Opera serves as a platform for transmitting traditional values and societal norms through its artistic expressions. Wang Xinyu's research presents a focused exploration of the cultural symbolism embedded within Yu Opera performances. Through in-depth analysis of specific plays and characters, the study unveils the layers of meaning woven into the opera's narratives. Wang's work illustrates how Yu Opera serves as a vessel for conveying traditional values, moral lessons, and societal norms. By dissecting the intricate symbolism present in costumes, gestures, and plotlines, this research reveals how Yu Opera encapsulates broader cultural themes, making it not just a form of entertainment but a vehicle for cultural transmission.

"Yu Opera in Contemporary Contexts: Creativity and Continuity," bridges the historical past of Yu Opera with its contemporary relevance. By investigating how Yu Opera has adapted to modern audiences while retaining its core elements, Chen discusses the innovative approaches that artists have taken to resonate with current societal issues. This research highlights the delicate balance between creative adaptation and cultural heritage preservation. Chen Ling's research bridges the historical past of Yu Opera with its relevance in modern times, presenting a nuanced perspective on the art form's adaptation. Through meticulous examination of contemporary performances and engagement with current audiences, the study showcases the creative ways in which Yu Opera artists have maintained its cultural essence while addressing contemporary societal concerns. This work not only highlights the innovative techniques employed by performers to captivate modern audiences but also emphasizes the delicate balance between continuity and creative adaptation (Chen, 2012).

"Cultural Resilience in Yu Opera: Navigating Change in a Globalized World," addresses the challenges and opportunities faced by Yu Opera in the era of globalization. The study examines how Yu Opera has maintained its cultural values while engaging with new influences, showcasing its adaptability in the modern world. This research provides insights into how traditional arts can remain resilient and relevant amidst global cultural shifts. Zhang Wei's research offers a comprehensive view of how Yu Opera has navigated the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization. The study explores how the art form has managed to maintain its core cultural values while integrating new influences. Zhang Wei's analysis showcases instances where Yu Opera has interacted with global cultural trends, highlighting its resilience in the face of changing times. By demonstrating how traditional art can evolve without compromising its identity, this research underscores the importance of preserving cultural heritage within a contemporary global context (Zhang, 2010).

Liang Luo (1999) in "Chinese Opera: Performance, Theory and Practice" explores the performance techniques and practices of Chinese opera, focusing on the historical development of Chinese opera and the cultural context in which it emerged. And Jia Jinhua (2012) in "The Popularization of Traditional Chinese Music in the 20th Century: Art and Politics": Art and Politics" also examines the historical and cultural factors that led to the development of traditional Chinese music (including opera) in the 20th century, revealing its popularization and social impact. Tan Tian Yuan (2017) studied the aesthetic dimensions of traditional Chinese drama, including opera, from an aesthetic perspective, analyzing its artistic elements, performance styles, and cultural significance. These additional works contribute various facets to the understanding of Chinese traditional arts, including opera. They provide insights into the performance techniques, aesthetic reflections, historical context, and popularization of traditional music and theater. By exploring these works, researchers can gain a more comprehensive view of the broader landscape within which Yu Opera operates.

In conclusion, the extensive body of research on the historical development and cultural connotation of Yu Opera offers a nuanced understanding of this traditional Chinese opera form. Scholars have examined its evolution over time, its symbolic meanings, its adaptation to contemporary contexts, and its resilience within a globalized world. Together, these research works contribute to a comprehensive appreciation of Yu Opera's role in Chinese cultural heritage and its relevance in today's dynamic cultural landscape. The rich body of literature reviewed here presents a comprehensive understanding of the historical development and cultural significance of Yu Opera. These works collectively contribute insights into its evolution, symbolism, contemporary adaptation, and resilience within a globalized context. Through interdisciplinary perspectives, these research studies enrich our appreciation of Yu Opera's role in Chinese cultural heritage and its dynamic relationship with changing societal and global dynamics.

### **Teaching methods of Yu opera**

Teaching Yu Opera encompasses a nuanced blend of techniques, cultural intricacies, and historical context inherent to this traditional Chinese theatrical art. The following literature review presents a comprehensive exploration of scholarly works that delve into diverse teaching methods employed for imparting the essence of Yu Opera:

"Pedagogical Approaches in Teaching Yu Opera Performance," delves into effective instructional strategies for teaching Yu Opera performance. Huang's study examines methods that effectively convey the physicality, vocal techniques, and gestural expressions unique to Yu Opera. By employing educational theories and practices, the research offers insights into

how instructors can break down complex movements and vocalizations, aiding students in mastering the intricacies of Yu Opera performance. Huang Ming's research delves into the intricacies of teaching Yu Opera performance by examining pedagogical strategies that effectively convey the essence of this traditional art form. This involves breaking down the physicality, vocal techniques, and gestural expressions unique to Yu Opera into manageable components for students to grasp. Huang's study draws upon educational theories and practices to present approaches that instructors can use to facilitate students' mastery of Yu Opera's demanding physical and vocal aspects. By dissecting the techniques and offering structured methods of instruction, the research assists educators in guiding students through the challenges of learning Yu Opera performance intricacies (Huang, 2015: 237-251).

"Cultural Contextualization in Yu Opera Pedagogy," accentuates the significance of incorporating cultural context into Yu Opera teaching methods. The study argues that comprehending historical background, symbolism, and societal values intrinsic to Yu Opera is pivotal for students to grasp its essence. Liu Wei delves into instructional strategies that connect Yu Opera performances to their cultural significance, enabling students to appreciate the art form on a profound level. Liu Wei's research emphasizes the vital role of cultural context in teaching Yu Opera, underlining how historical background, symbolism, and societal values significantly impact students' understanding and appreciation of the art form. Liu Wei's study underscores the importance of contextualization in conveying the richness of Yu Opera's narratives, characters, and themes. By weaving the historical and cultural context into teaching methods, educators can provide students with a deeper insight into the layers of meaning that permeate Yu Opera performances. This approach encourages students to explore the connections between the art form and broader cultural trends, fostering a more profound engagement.

"Experiential Learning in Yu Opera Education: Learning by Doing," emphasizes the efficacy of experiential learning in teaching Yu Opera. The study underscores the significance of practical engagement through hands-on performance training and immersive workshops. Zhang's research highlights how experiential learning enhances students' skills, cultivates their passion for Yu Opera, and fosters a profound connection to its cultural heritage. This research underscores the value of experiential learning in teaching Yu Opera. This hands-on approach immerses students in practical engagement, such as hands-on performance training and immersive workshops. Experiential learning allows students to engage with the physical and emotional aspects of Yu Opera, enabling them to grasp techniques more profoundly and develop a personal connection to the art form. Through guided practice and experiential engagement, educators empower students to acquire skills, enhance their passion for Yu Opera, and forge a lasting bond with its cultural heritage (Zhang, 2019: 123-138).

## **Research Objectives**

1. To study singing and dramas in Yu opera from expert.
2. To write a guidebook for Yu opera for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqui Normal University, Henan Province.
3. To use guidebook for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqui Normal University, Henan Province.
4. To find out the result of guidebook for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqui Normal University, Henan Province.

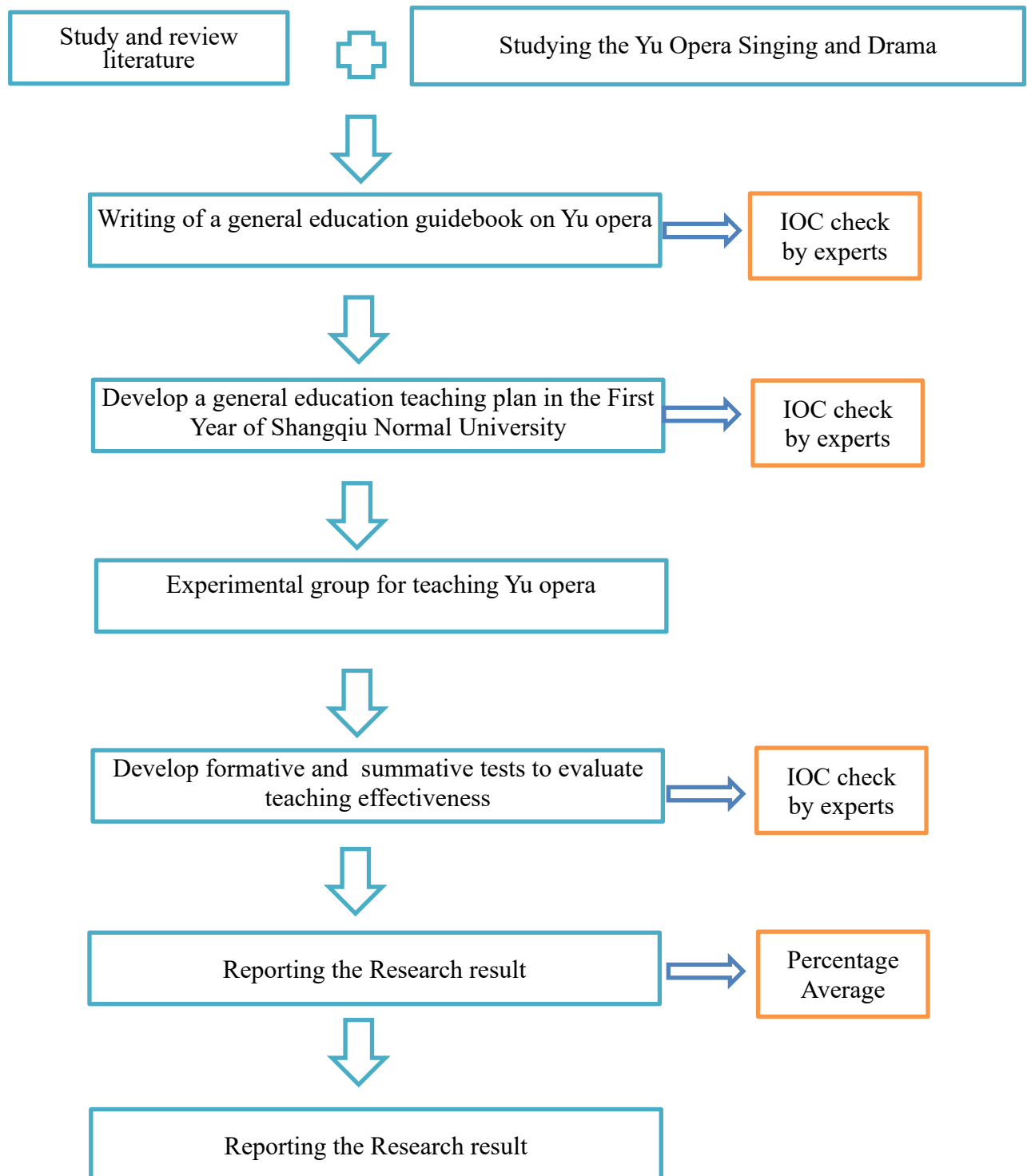
## **Research Methodology**

The research methodology is a qualitative research and experimental research mixed method.

Quantitative Study :30 students were selected from 200 students taking general studies course for teaching and examination.

Quality research: In phrase 1 the researcher have already construct 16 lessons plan, in phrase 2 will use them as the Fundamentals of Yu Opera Singing and Drama teaching methods to teach students of 1st year of general education in Shangqui Normal University, Henan Province.

## Research Conceptual Framework



## Research Findings

The culmination of this dissertation journey presents a comprehensive understanding of the intricate world of Yu opera, specifically focusing on its singing and dramatic elements, while also achieving the overarching goal of creating an insightful guidebook tailored for the first-year University General Education curriculum at Shangqiu Normal University in Henan province. Through an exploration of the historical origins and cultural artistic connotations of Yu opera, the foundation was laid to bridge the rich heritage of this traditional art form with modern educational practices.

### 1. Study singing and dramas in Yu opera from expert

In this interview, three experts provided insights into several aspects of Yu opera education in China, expressing some common views and opinions.

**Importance of Yu opera in higher education:** The three experts agreed that it is very important to promote Yu opera education in universities and higher education. They emphasized that Yu opera, as a treasure of traditional Chinese culture, helps to pass on cultural heritage and can cultivate students' creativity, cultural cultivation and art appreciation.

**Cultural Values and Contemporary Education:** Experts agreed that Yu opera plays an important role in the contemporary education system because it can bridge the gap between traditional and modern artistic values. Yu opera not only passes on ancient artistic traditions, but also inspires students to think creatively and raise their cultural awareness.

**Challenges and Opportunities:** All three experts emphasized the challenges facing Yu opera education, including competition in the digital age, attracting young learners, and insufficient funding. However, they also believed that these challenges can be overcome through innovative educational methods, digital media and integration with modern culture. Yu opera can attract more young students through multimedia performances and cross-disciplinary cooperation.

**Appeal for support and attention:** Finally, the three experts unanimously appealed for more support and attention to promote the further development of Yu opera education. They would like to see collaboration between the government, academia and the community to provide more resources and opportunities for Yu opera education in order to better preserve and develop this important cultural tradition.

Taken together, the three experts emphasized the unique position of Yu opera education in higher education and its important role in cultural heritage and student development. At the same time, they also recognized the challenges posed by modern society to Yu opera education, but all expressed optimism that through innovation and cooperation, Yu opera education will continue to flourish in the future.

### 2. Write a guidebook for Yu opera for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqiu Normal University, Henan Province

In order to enhance the cognitive ability of all students in the university to better disseminate the culture of opera, the researcher utilized the research results, expert interviews, and basic theoretical knowledge of Yu opera to first develop a syllabus of a teaching guidebook suitable for a general course in the university, then determine the composition of the guidebook, complete the full version of the guidebook, and finally invite experts to review the course plan before conducting the experimental study.

The Yu Opera Singing and Drama Teaching Guidebook includes an introduction, traditional Yu Opera repertoire, how to use the Yu Opera Singing and Drama Teaching Guidebook, song exercises, performance exercises, teaching methods, and teaching lesson plans.

### **3. Use this guidebook for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqiu Normal University, Henan Province**

The core part of this chapter is to improve and sublimate students' appreciation, singing, dancing and performing abilities through the appreciation and teaching practice of the classic singing sections of Yu opera.

The guidebook combines theoretical knowledge and analysis of the works of Yu opera to teach, explaining in detail and accurately the region, history, and forms of expression, and learning different singing techniques and performance methods according to different tunes in the singing practice, so as to let the learners master it easily in an easy-to-understand way, increase the content of the knowledge of the music of Yu opera, and understand and learn the characteristics of the singing and performance of Yu opera to enhance the students' comprehensive artistic experience and aesthetic appreciation. It also improves students' comprehensive artistic experience and aesthetic appreciation.

This guidebook divides the Yu Opera Singing and Drama course into 16 lessons. The basic learning content includes the objectives of the course, teaching key points, specific teaching implementation programs and post-course exercises.

### **4. Find out the result of guidebook for teaching 1st year students general education in Shangqiu Normal University, Henan Province**

The process of evaluating the guidebook's impact on teaching practices within Shangqiu Normal University unveiled a mosaic of experiences, opinions, and reflections. The guidebook demonstrated its capacity to kindle curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and foster cultural appreciation. Nevertheless, areas of improvement were identified, such as refining certain teaching strategies to cater to varying student backgrounds and preferences. The evaluation phase reinforced the iterative nature of education and the necessity of continuous adaptation to optimize the guidebook's utility.

In conclusion, this dissertation has achieved its research objectives of investigating the historical origins, unraveling the cultural artistic connotations, creating a comprehensive teaching guidebook, and evaluating its practical application for teaching Yu opera's singing and dramas within the context of University General Education at Shangqiu Normal University. Through this endeavor, a harmonious synthesis of tradition and modernity has been established, nurturing the appreciation of Yu opera as an invaluable cultural treasure while equipping educators with a dynamic tool to inspire future generations. As we gaze ahead, the journey continues through ongoing refinement, exploration, and collaboration to ensure that Yu opera's melodies and stories resonate vibrantly in the hearts and minds of learners for generations to come.



## Discussion

The exploration of the historical origins of Yu opera unearthed a rich tapestry of cultural heritage, reflecting the intricate interplay of historical, social, and artistic forces. The in-depth study illuminated how Yu opera is not only a performing art but also a repository of cultural memory, embodying the values, emotions, and narratives of bygone eras. The cultural artistic connotations of Yu opera revealed its capacity to encapsulate the ethos and identity of a society through music, drama, and visual aesthetics. This historical and cultural perspective provides a foundation for understanding the contextual significance of Yu opera within the guidebook's pedagogical framework (Jia, 2012).

The core of this research endeavor culminated in the creation of a teaching guidebook that integrates traditional Yu opera elements with modern pedagogical methodologies. By emphasizing the singing and dramatic components of Yu opera, the guidebook was designed to facilitate a holistic learning experience, engaging students both intellectually and emotionally. Through the integration of multimedia resources, interactive activities, and culturally contextualized content, the guidebook aimed to bridge the gap between the historical richness of Yu opera and the contemporary learning preferences of students. This synthesis of tradition and innovation ensures that the guidebook remains relevant in the evolving landscape of education (Chen, 2019 : 112-125.).

The utilization of the guidebook in teaching the University General Education courses at Shangqiu Normal University provided valuable insights into its practical application. Initial observations indicated increased student engagement, as well as an enhanced understanding of the cultural and artistic dimensions of Yu opera. The guidebook's effectiveness in facilitating cross-disciplinary connections and fostering critical thinking skills was evident. However, challenges arose in adapting traditional art forms to diverse learning styles and preferences. These challenges highlighted the importance of pedagogical flexibility and the need for continuous assessment and adaptation (Tan, 2017).

The research findings and experiences suggest several implications for future educational practices and research endeavors: Cultural Enrichment: Integrating traditional performing arts like Yu opera into university curricula can contribute to cultural enrichment, fostering a deeper appreciation for heritage and artistic expression. Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Collaborations between academic departments can enhance the holistic understanding of cultural traditions, offering students a multifaceted perspective. Pedagogical Adaptation: The guidebook's evolution should encompass ongoing adjustments based on student feedback and pedagogical advancements, ensuring its continued relevance. Cultural Preservation: By introducing students to Yu opera, this research contributes to the preservation of a cultural legacy that might otherwise fade with time. Lifelong Learning: The guidebook's resources and insights have potential beyond the classroom, encouraging lifelong learning and engagement with traditional arts (Zhang, 2019 : 123-138).

## **Recommendation**

### **1. Practical Recommendations**

Researchers develop this guidebook, must find the long-term common problems in the professional field, so through a lot of investigation and research found the breakthrough to change the current situation and develop effective teaching materials. This guidebook is suitable for both teachers and students to use together.

A good guidebook can lead students to develop good habits, guidebook design to the characteristics of students, so that students can find interest in it, which is very important.

Teachers and students can use guidebooks to communicate and interact well which is essential in learning practice. Carrying out practical training in Chinese traditional opera allows students to reacquaint themselves with their own selves and feel the value of their own existence.

Guide students to correctly understand and evaluate themselves, and the teaching materials can play a great role. Each course content is a vivid self-evaluation course for students, so that they can constantly prove themselves in the course. This implication is in line with students' positive psychological state.

Complete guidebook and main core content Final training purpose: first, let teachers and students feel that the teaching plan is effective; second, can enable students to survive in the professional field; finally, in the future, students can realize their ideal career planning through their good comprehensive skills performance.

### **2. Recommendation for future research**

We offer specific and practical recommendations derived from the research findings and experiences obtained throughout the study of singing and dramas in Yu opera, the creation of a teaching guidebook, its implementation in the University General Education courses, and the subsequent evaluation at Shangqiu Normal University. These recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness of teaching Yu opera and guide future efforts in similar endeavors.

**Interactive Learning Strategies:** Incorporate diverse interactive activities, such as role-playing, group discussions, and hands-on workshops, to cater to various learning styles and engage students actively.

**Flexible Assessment Methods:** Develop a range of assessment strategies, including performances, research projects, and written assignments, to evaluate students' comprehension and encourage deeper exploration.

**Cultural Workshops:** Organize workshops featuring Yu opera practitioners, musicians, and actors to provide students with firsthand exposure to the art form's intricacies and cultural significance.

**Outreach Initiatives:** Establish connections with local cultural organizations and schools to expand the impact of Yu opera education beyond the university campus.

**Long-Term Impact Studies:** Conduct longitudinal studies to track the lasting effects of teaching Yu opera on students' cultural awareness and appreciation over time.

**Qualitative Assessment:** Incorporate qualitative methods, such as interviews and focus groups, to gain deeper insights into students' perceptions and experiences.

By implementing these recommendations, educators can further enrich the teaching of Yu opera in University General Education courses, fostering a deeper connection between cultural heritage and modern education. The evolving nature of education necessitates ongoing exploration and adaptation, ensuring that Yu opera's enduring melodies continue to resonate with each new generation of learners.

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