

ERUA Intensive Course Intercultural Communication: Culture, Identity, and Language in a Globalized Context

SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland

May 18-22, 2026

Module 1 – Interculturality and Meaning-Making (Day 1)

This module introduces key concepts in intercultural communication through experiential and reflective activities. Students explore why intercultural competence matters for communication, mediation, and effectiveness, and engage in a cross-cultural simulation game that illustrates how cultural frameworks shape interaction. They also examine embodied and cognitive dimensions of meaning-making across languages. The day concludes with a portfolio activity supporting reflection.

Module 2 – Representation, Stereotypes, and Dehumanizing Discourses (Day 2)

Focusing on discourse analysis, this module analyzes how cultural texts and media construct social categories, stereotypes, and power relations. Using problem-based and discussion-centered learning students examine political, media, and cultural narratives that shape public understanding of identity and difference. Case studies and group work help students identify linguistic mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion.

Module 3 – Intercultural Communication and Cultural Narratives (Day 3)

This module investigates how cultural norms influence communication styles, conflict management, leadership expectations, persuasive strategies, time perception, and more. Students apply inquiry-based methods to analyze intercultural encounters in different contexts. Interactive workshops and case studies encourage them to identify and negotiate culturally shaped patterns of disagreement, evaluation, and collaboration. Reflective portfolio work consolidates insights and supports personal development in intercultural competence.

Module 4 – Debate Preparation (Day 4)

This module provides a day off from scheduled instruction to allow students to work in small groups on the upcoming debate. This time will be used for research, argument development, source gathering, and strategic planning related to the debate. The aim of this independent study period is to support deeper engagement with course themes and strengthen collaboration, analytical reasoning, and project management skills.

Module 5 – Debate and Integration (Day 5)

The final module synthesizes the week's learning through an Oxford-style debate. The debate provides a space for practicing intercultural argumentation, communication strategy, and collaborative reasoning. A closing reflective session helps students articulate how their perspectives have evolved and how they will apply these skills across ERUA institutions and future communication.