

Exercise: Explore the cultural logic of the following marital practices that are observed in many cultures worldwide:
→ In other words, why do people in this culture engage in this behavior? Why might a person in this culture say she likes this practice?
*This is a brainstorming exercise. I will collect these sheets, but you will not be graded on their content

Arranged Marriage

- everyone that wants to get married can
- May be tough to meet a match, So this can guarantee you will be married if you are of high social status.
- girl feels she is too inexperienced
- love will come, but later

Make a bond between 2 families

- select a spouse from a worthy group

Bridewealth

- to raise your social status
- everyone that wants to get married can
- you buy a wife because you buy everything. You "invest" in something
- affects all members of the family. So the bride's family wants to get paid more.
- Stabilizes the marriage
- mortified if they didn't get anything for their marriage.

grants security to bride in case husband dies

- Compensation to bride's family for losing an important laborer.

Polygyny

- bigger labor pool ~~to~~ to pick from (kids)
- guaranteed to have kids (if one wife is pregnant another one can be too)
- if women get along, it eases work load,
- companionship to wife!