## Muslim Marriage

In the Muslim community marriage is universal for it discourages celibacy. Muslims call their marriage Nikah . Marriage is regarded not as a religious sacrament but as a secular bond. The bridegroom makes a proposal to the bride just before the wedding ceremony in the presence of two witnesses and a maulavi or kazi.The proposal is called ijab and its acceptance is called qubul.It is necessary that both the proposal and its acceptance must take place at the same meeting to make it a sahi Nikah.It is a matter of tradition among the Muslims to have marriage among equals. Though there is no legal prohibition to contract marriage with a person of low status, such marriages are looked down upon.

There is provision of preferential system in mate selection. The parallel cousins and cross cousins are allowed to get married. Marriage that is held contrary to the Islamic rules is called batil or invalid marriage.Meher or dower is a practice associated with Muslim marriage. It is a sum of money or other property which a wife is entitled to get from her husband in consideration of the marriage. Iddat is the period of seclusion for three menstrual periods for a woman after the death /divorce by her husband to ascertain whether she is pregnant or not. Only after this period she can remarry. Muslim marriage can be dissolved in the following ways: divorce as per the Muslim law but without the intervention of the court and Kula where divorce is initiated at the instance of the wife . Talaq represents one of the ways according to which a Muslim husband can give divorce to his wife as per the Muslim law by repeating the dismissal formula thrice. The talaq may be affected either orally by making some pronouncements or in writing.

In Islam, there are different ways a man and a woman can marry each other. Each way is different from the others, and gives couples an option to choose what works best for their personalities or their situation. It is important to note that Islam does allow polygamy, so a man can marry more than one woman, but not polyandry, a practice by which a woman can have multiple husbands.

**Nikah**

Nikah is the type of Islamic marriage that most people living in a western culture would identify with most. The marriage ceremony is performed by a parent giving his daughter away in marriage and the groom accepting her. The contract is made valid by the signing of a contract with witnesses, and is not meant to be broken. In this type of marriage, the bride and the groom both inherit from each other. It is possible to end the marriage in divorce.

## Nikah Misyar

Nikah Misyar has been noted as a way for Islamic couples to marry one another with no strings attached. They enter the marriage contract in the same way as Nikah, but they willingly give up a number of rights like living together, financial responsibility for one another, and an equal division of nights spent with wives in the case of polygamy.

Monogamy Vs. Polygamy

**Monogamy - when 1 individual is married to 1 individual (at a time)**

This is the norm for most of the modern western world, partly due to its members lifestyles and partly due to the values and rules of some of the main religious beliefs

**Serial-Monogamy** - when an individual remarries repeatedly after a divorce/death of the previous spouse

**Polygamy - when an individual is married to more than 1 individual (at the same time)**

This can be due to beliefs/religion, culture/tradition or lifestyle (among other things), and can be seen in both modern and historic societys. It can be devided in to Three groups (but the course doesn't look at group marriages), Polygyny being more common than Polyandry (the word Poly- means more than 1, -gamy being linked to marriage, -gyny meaning woman, and  -andry meaning man). While it may benefit the family financially (by members working together), there is always the chance of jealousy .

In countries where it's illegal, it is known as **Bigamy**.

**Polygyny** - when a man has more than 1 wife

this practice can often be seen among the Mormons & parts of Africa, and traditionally also some groups of Native Americans.

there are a few reasons for this;

* it is a display of wealth - a man may only have as many wives as he can support (often on a financial basis).
* it ensures women are cared for - where it traditionally occurs it is often linked to pre-industrial society - either in hunter-gatherer or some farming societies. Women can't always go out and hunt or work on the land (either based upon physical abilities or social constraints on womens roles) and as such to survive they have to have men.
* there may be more women then men - which links into above
* the women often share household chores and child care
* there is evidence that men in Polygynous marriages live longer
* it helped ensure high numbers of births in societys where the infant mortality rate may be high
* gives women more of a chance of marrying a rich man