

Reading Guide #10: Marriage

These reading guides are provided to assist you in your reading. I encourage you to read the material through, first, then go back to answer the questions. You are not expected to hand in written answers. You are expected to have responses ready for class discussion. Page numbers refer to Arthur, *Morality and Moral Controversies*, 7th ed.

Elizabeth Joseph, 'Polygamy is Good Feminism', pp 311-312.

1. How is plural marriage a paradox?
 - 2. According to Joseph, to what compromises concerning children does monogamy lead? How does she avoid these compromises?**
 3. How does plural marriage relieve pressure at dinnertime?
 4. When does Joseph spend time with her husband? How is this time arranged?
 - 5. "[Plural marriage] enables women, who live in society full of obstacles, to fully meet their career, mothering, and marriage obligations." Explain.**
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William Bennett and Andrew Sullivan, "Same-Sex Marriage: A Debate", pp 312-315.

Bennett:

- 1. What two issues divided the proponents and opponents of same-sex marriages?**
2. How would same-sex marriages "shatter the conventional definition of marriage"?
- 3. What does Bennett mean by 'sexual relativism'? What does he see as its consequences?**
- 4. What is the relationship between monogamy and marriage? How does Bennett see this relation as an argument against same-sex marriage?**
5. How does Bennett characterize marriage and its basis?

Sullivan:

- 1. How does Sullivan distinguish homosexuality from polygamy? Why does he do so?**
2. How does same-sex marriage oppose relativism?
- 3. "The truth is, marriage has changed many, many times over the centuries. Each change should be judged on its own terms, not as part of some seamless process of alleged disintegration." (314) Explain.**
- 4. How does Sullivan disagree with Bennett over the significance of the existence of open gay male relationships?**
- 5. Does male promiscuity serve as an argument against same-sex marriage? Explain.**
6. Does marriage reward monogamy or encourage it? Explain.