**4 Waves of Feminism**

**Martha Rampton Phd. Professor of History at Pacific University of Oregon**

**First wave**: 1830s-1900s emerged out of an environment of urban industrialism and liberal, socialist politics. The goal of this wave was to open up opportunities for women. Mostly propelled by white Western, middle class women

* To vote (have a voice in politics/decisions)
* To work outside the home

**Second Wave**: 1960s-1990s. More radical amid other social protests (civil rights movement, anti-war.) Women of colour and developed nations were drawn to the cause; race, class, and gender were all related to these issues

* Reproductive rights
* Social equality regardless of gender
* More women in roles of politics, higher education and business

**Third wave:** mid 1990s. Girl Feminism. Women can be sexy and smart, therefore embrace wearing makeup and clothing that they like. Strong and empowered, Grrl Power, women-only spaces online (for example). Complacent about moving forward

* Refusal to think of us-them
* Don’t want to identify as ‘feminist’
* Rejection of the communal group of feminists (We women…)
* ‘We don’t need feminism anymore. We have equal rights’

**Fourth Wave**: now…moving from academic studies about women studies back to public discourse. #metoo movement

‘I thought women were equal?’

* problems like sexual abuse, rape, violence against women, unequal pay, slut-shaming, the pressure on women to conform to a single and unrealistic body-type and the realization that gains in female representation in politics and business are low
* lack of legally-mandated parental leave in the States
* **intersectionality**; people who belong to several different groups that are marginalized, such as female, non-white, or female and physically disabled