

What is Star Trek

Starting as a Science Fiction TV-series in the late 60s, Star Trek has become a franchise that is alive and well to this day.

Star Trek, **The Original Series** and **The Animated Series** comprise 80 and 22 episodes respectively, aired in the US during the late 60s and early 70s.

They are Sci-Fi stories with space exploration and interstellar politics being the most central of the themes.

Star Trek, **The Next Generation** is 178 episodes, aired in the US during the late 80s and early 90s.

Building on The Original Series, space exploration remains the central theme, augmented with further elaborated ideas about future social issues and the impact of new technology.

The setup is similar in all the series: The protagonists, the crew of each respective space ship, are groups of mostly human military type characters together with a smaller number of humanoid alien allies. Antagonists change from episode to episode, but are more often than not from nasty alien species who plot against or wage outright war on humanity and her allies.

The stories are mostly independent of each other and feature wide variety of themes; only a portion are Science Fiction by nature. Large common theme categories are: Human emotion and human nature; ethical dilemma of different kinds; and featured science, philosophy, religious ideas and plain crackpot theories. There are of course also many both classical and innovative Science Fiction premises: Ideas about AI (artificial intelligence) in the future, thoughts about existential risks (ways in which earth and civilization might go out), and speculation about unknown forms of life (sentient or otherwise). These are only some examples.

