

American TV Shows You Should Watch

recommended by Michael Butter, Annika Thiem, Marina Pingler, and Janine Schwarz

A) Influential Older Shows

1.	<i>I Love Lucy</i>	(6 seasons)	(1951-1957)
2.	<i>Gunsmoke</i>	(20 seasons)	(1955-1975)
3.	<i>Leave It to Beaver</i>	(6 seasons)	(1957-1963)
4.	<i>The Twilight Zone</i>	(5 seasons)	(1959-1964)
5.	<i>I Dream of Jeannie</i>	(5 seasons)	(1965-1970)
6.	<i>Star Trek: The Original Series</i>	(3 seasons)	(1966-1969)
7.	<i>The Waltons</i>	(9 seasons)	(1972-1981)
8.	<i>The Jeffersons</i>	(11 seasons)	(1975-1985)
9.	<i>Roots</i>	(1 season)	(1977)
10.	<i>Holocaust</i>	(1 season)	(1978)
11.	<i>Dallas</i>	(14 seasons)	(1978-1991)
12.	<i>St. Elsewhere</i>	(6 seasons)	(1982-1988)
13.	<i>Cheers</i>	(11 seasons)	(1982-1993)
14.	<i>Miami Vice</i>	(5 seasons)	(1984-1989)
15.	<i>The Cosby Show</i>	(8 seasons)	(1984-1992)
16.	<i>North and South</i>	(3 seasons)	(1985-1986, 1994)
17.	<i>Married...with Children</i>	(11 seasons)	(1987-1997)
18.	<i>Roseanne</i>	(10 seasons)	(1988-1997, 2018)
19.	<i>Seinfeld</i>	(9 seasons)	(1989-1998)
20.	<i>Baywatch</i>	(11 seasons, <i>we recommend s. 1</i>)	(1989-2001)
21.	<i>The Simpsons</i>	(33 seasons)	(1989-), <i>still running</i>
22.	<i>Twin Peaks</i>	(2 seasons)	(1990-1991)
23.	<i>The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air</i>	(6 seasons)	(1990-1996)
24.	<i>The X-Files</i>	(11 seasons)	(1993-2002, 2016-2018)
25.	<i>Friends</i>	(10 seasons)	(1994-2004)
26.	<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i>	(7 seasons)	(1997-2003)
27.	<i>South Park</i>	(24 seasons)	(1997-), <i>still running</i>
28.	<i>Sex and the City</i>	(6 seasons)	(1998-2004)

B) "Complex TV" since the 2000s

29.	<i>The West Wing</i>	(7 seasons)	(1999-2006)
30.	<i>Sopranos</i>	(6 seasons)	(1999-2007)
31.	<i>Gilmore Girls</i>	(7 seasons)	(2000-2007)
32.	<i>24</i>	(8 seasons, <i>we recommend s. 1&2</i>)	(2001-2010)
33.	<i>The Wire</i>	(5 seasons)	(2002-2008)
34.	<i>Arrested Development</i>	(5 seasons)	(2003-2019)
35.	<i>Deadwood</i>	(3 seasons)	(2004-2006)
36.	<i>Battlestar Galactica</i>	(4 seasons)	(2004-2009)
37.	<i>Lost</i>	(6 seasons)	(2004-2010)
38.	<i>Damages</i>	(5 seasons, <i>we recommend s. 1</i>)	(2007-2012)

39. <i>Mad Men</i>	(7 seasons)	(2007-2015)
40. <i>Breaking Bad</i>	(5 seasons)	(2008-2013)
41. <i>Parks and Recreation</i>	(7 seasons)	(2009-2015)
42. <i>The Walking Dead</i>	(10 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1-4)	(2010-), <i>still running</i>
43. <i>Games of Thrones</i>	(8 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1-6)	(2011-2019)
44. <i>Homeland</i>	(8 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1-3)	(2011-2020)
45. <i>House of Cards</i>	(6 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1&2)	(2013-2018)
46. <i>Orange Is the New Black</i>	(7 seasons)	(2013-2019)
47. <i>The Affair</i>	(5 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1&2)	(2014-2019)
48. <i>True Detective</i>	(3 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1)	(2014-), <i>still running</i>
49. <i>Stranger Things</i>	(3 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1)	(2016-), <i>still running</i>
50. <i>Westworld</i>	(2 seasons, <i>we recommend</i> s. 1)	(2016-), <i>still running</i>
51. <i>Big Little Lies</i>	(2 seasons)	(2017-2019)
52. <i>Dear White People</i>	(4 seasons)	(2017-2021)
53. <i>The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel</i>	(3 seasons)	(2017-), <i>still running</i>
54. <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	(4 seasons)	(2017-), <i>still running</i>
55. <i>Schitt's Creek</i>	(6 seasons)	(2015-2020)
56. <i>Superstore</i>	(6 seasons)	(2015-2021)
57. <i>When They See Us</i>	(1 season)	(2019)