



Shinkendo: Traditional Japanese Swordsmanship

Shinkendo is a form of Budo, or Japanese martial arts, created in 1990 by Toshishiro Obata Kaiso. Obata Kaiso studied in many different schools of Budo in Japan and then came to America to distill what he had learned into a new art that he believed encompassed all important aspects of serious swordsmanship study. Shinkendo is the sincere/serious way of the sword.

There exists many schools of Japanese Swordsmanship that highlight and focus on one specific aspect of swordsmanship. Shinkendo, however, involves the study five balanced and important aspects of handling the sword. We believe that true, deep study of Japanese Swordsmanship involves many complementing concepts that must be studied in tandem. In Shinkendo, these five aspects of swordsmanship, Suburi (swinging and basics), Battoho (combative drawing and re-sheathing), Tanrengata (main solo forms), Tachiuchi (partnered training), and Tameshigiri (target cutting practice) are like five interlocking rings. All five aspects relate to one another and to neglect one is to neglect the whole. This is the foundation of comprehensive study of swordsmanship. It allows us to view the techniques from a larger perspective and to pursue them deeply.

Classes are ongoing and available* Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at Mockingbirdhills Community Center off of 102nd and L. For more info, please contact Tony Ferguson at 402-699-5024 or at tony@skyvu.net



*For safety reasons, I do not accept students younger than 13. I apologize for the inconvenience.