

## Kendo, Kenjutsu, Iaido in Rhode Island

### A Brief Description of Sword Training Available in the Rhode Island Area

#### Kenjutsu

Kenjutsu typically refers to old sword methods that focus upon developing skills and techniques for effectively for destroying enemy. Kenjutsu is a fighting method for the battlefield rather than for one-on one dueling. Techniques are practiced both solo and with a training partner. Since the sword is already out of the scabbard when entering combat, techniques of sword drawing are not the primary focus of practice. Some schools include sword drawing as part of the curriculum and some do not.

Some schools, such as Motobu Udundi Kenjutsu, teach methods utilizing two swords.

*Taira Sensei & Takamiyagi Sensei  
explaining the fine points of Motobu  
Udundi Kenjutsu at Kodokai Dojo in  
North Smithfield, RI.*

[www.kodokai.info](http://www.kodokai.info)



*The sword methods described below are modern offshoots of Kenjutsu. They are focused on sport, spiritual or meditative aspects of the practice. In the last example, the focus is on making money.*

#### Kendo

Just as jujitsu spawned the sport of judo, Kendo is the modern sport version of Kenjutsu. Kendo is popularly known for sparring matches where two people square off in expensive and extensive protective equipment. The goal is to score points by striking ones opponent on select targets.

There is no Kendo dojo in Rhode Island. You will have to go to Massachusetts if you have your heart set on this sport.

#### Iaido

This art primarily focuses on the art of drawing the sword from its scabbard, cutting an imaginary opponent, and returning the sword to the scabbard. The principle means of practice is "kata", or choreographed movements practiced as a solo exercise. Emphasis is often on meditation and form.

#### Aikido

Aiki-ken are sword techniques practiced in some Aikido schools. Quite different from other sword methods, this method is primarily for the development of empty-handed skills rather than for defeating an enemy.

#### Hollywood Sword Methods

"Kill Bill" has inspired many martial arts teachers to find a way to cash in on the newfound interest in swordsmanship. Many schools now offer sword classes in made-up martial arts. While techniques may look dramatic, they are usually nonsense, an embarrassment to the unwitting student who demonstrates them, and lack the functional application of classical sword methods. Stay away.