

# Glossary

## A

- aiki** [合気] unified energy  
**aikido** [合気道] way of aiki; a modern martial art derived from jujutsu  
**aikijutsu** [合気術] techniques of aiki  
**aite** [相手] opponent  
**Asayama Ichiden-ryu** [浅山一伝流] classical comprehensive martial of the goshi  
**ashigaru** [足軽] foot soldiers; the lowest level of bushi  
**atarashii naginata** [新なぎなた] lit., new naginata; modern martial art of naginata  
**atemi** [当身] strike  
**atemiwaza** [当身技] techniques of striking

## B

- bakufu** [幕府] military government of Japan  
**battojutsu** [抜刀術] techniques of sword-drawing; sword-drawing art  
**bo** [棒] staff  
**bojutsu** [棒術] techniques of the staff; staff art  
**bokuto** [木刀] wooden sword  
**budo** [武道] martial ways  
**bugei** [武芸] martial arts  
**bujutsu** [武術] martial arts, martial techniques  
**bushi** [武士] Japanese warrior  
**bushido** [武士道] way of the bushi, or Japanese warrior

## C

- Chokugen-ryu onaginatajutsu** [直元流大長刀術] classical tradition that specializes in the use of a very large naginata

## D

- Dai Nippon Butokukai** [大日本武徳会] Greater Japan Martial Virtues Society  
**dan** [段] lit. step; indicates a degree of black belt  
**densho** [伝書] transmission documents of a classical ryu  
**deshi** [弟子] disciple, student  
**dojo** [道場] lit. way place; a place where martial arts are practiced  
**doshin** [同心] Tokugawa period law enforcement official

## F

- fudoshin** [不動心] imperturbable or immovable spirit  
**fukuro shinai** [袋撓] training sword made of bamboo encased in leather  
**furibo** [振棒] heavy training club used in Jikishinkage-ryu to develop proper technique and stamina  
**furisode** [振袖] long-sleeved kimono worn by young unmarried women  
**furui** [古い] old

## G

- gokui** [極意] hidden or secret; in Yagyū Shinkage-ryu, one of the okugi techniques  
**go no sen** [後の先] responsive initiative; also machi no sen  
**goshi** [郷士] farmer warriors; bushi who held and worked land  
**gunbaisha** [軍配者] practitioner of battlefield divination

## H

- habiki** [刃引] metal-bladed sword; can be sharp or rebated  
**hachidan** [八段] 8th degree black belt

***hachimaki*** [鉢巻] headband  
***hachiwari*** [鉢割] helmet-splitter  
***hakama*** [袴] pleated divided skirt or culottes  
***hakuda*** [白打] unarmed close-combat techniques  
***hamon*** [破門] formal expulsion from a ryu  
***hanbo*** [半棒] short staff  
***hanbojutsu*** [半棒術] techniques of the short staff  
***hanshi*** [範士] master-level instructor  
***heiho*** [兵法] martial principles or military strategy  
***hikitate geiko*** [引立稽古] training to improve someone's technical skill or level  
***hinawaju*** [火繩銃] matchlock musket  
***hojo*** [捕縄] binding and securing  
***hojojutsu*** [捕縄術] binding techniques, using a tying cord to restrain prisoners  
***Hokushin Itto-ryu kenjutsu***  
 [北辰一刀流劍術] classical sword tradition  
***hyoho*** [兵法] see heiho

## I

***iaido*** [居合道] way of sword-drawing; a modern martial art  
***iaijutsu*** [居合術] techniques of sword-drawing; sword-drawing art  
***inkajo*** [印可状] lit. rank of the seal; authority to pass on the tradition  
***Itto Shoden Muto-ryu kenjutsu***  
 [一刀正伝無刀流劍術] classical sword tradition

## J

***jigeiko*** [地稽古] free practice or sparring in kendo, atarashii naginata, jukendo  
***jita kyoei*** [自他共栄] mutual benefit and welfare  
***jo*** [杖] stick, usually about four feet in length

***jojutsu*** [杖術] techniques of the stick; stick art  
***judo*** [柔道] way of flexibility; modern martial art  
***judogi*** [柔道着] jacket and trousers worn while doing judo  
***jujutsu*** [柔術] techniques of flexibility; grappling art  
***jukendo*** [銃劍道] way of the bayonet; modern martial art  
***jukenjutsu*** [銃劍術] techniques of the bayonet; bayonet art  
***jutte*** [十手] single-tined truncheon

## K

***kabutowari*** [兜割] helmet-splitter  
***kaeshiwaza*** [返技] techniques to reverse or escape techniques being applied to oneself  
***kamae*** [構] engagement posture  
***kami*** [神] Shinto diety or dieties  
***kappo*** [活法] resuscitation methods or techniques  
***karatedo*** [空手道] way of the empty hand; modern martial art  
***Kashima Shinden Jikishinkage-ryu***  
 [鹿島神伝直心影流] classical sword tradition  
***kata*** [形] prearranged movement pattern  
***katana*** [刀] Japanese sword, worn cutting edge up  
***katchu bujutsu*** [甲冑武術] martial techniques done while wearing armor  
***katsu*** [活] resuscitation techniques  
***katsujinken*** [活人劍] life-giving sword  
***kazunuki*** [数抜き] drawing and cutting 3,000, 10,000, or 30,000 times; special practice of Tatsumi-ryu  
***keiko shokon*** [稽古照今] reflect on the old to understand the new  
***kempo*** [拳法] fist method; unarmed sparring methods or systems  
***ken*** [懸] attack; fall upon  
***ken*** [劍] sword

**kendo** [剣道] way of the sword; modern martial art of Japanese fencing  
**kenjutsu** [剣術] techniques of the sword; swordsmanship  
**keppan** [血判] blood seal made with vow upon entering a ryu  
**kesagiri** [袈裟切] diagonal cut  
**ki** [気] vital energy  
**kiai** [気合] focused shouts  
**kiaijutsu** [気合術] techniques of kiai; methods of exerting one's will on others  
**kirigami menjo** [切紙免状] classical license on a simple piece of folded Japanese paper  
**kishomon** [起請文] vow on entering a classical tradition  
**kobo itchi** [攻防一致] attack and defense as a continuum of response in combat  
**kobudo** [古武道] classical martial ways  
**kobujutsu** [古武術] classical martial arts  
**kodachi** [小太刀] short sword  
**kogusoku** [小具足] grappling, usually in armor  
**kohai** [後輩] junior  
**kokoro** [心] spirit, heart, or mind; also *shin*  
**koku** [石] traditional Japanese weight measure; used to specify income  
**kokyu** [呼吸] breath, breathing  
**koppo** [骨法] unarmed grappling  
**koryu** [古流] classical or old tradition  
**koryu budo** [古流武道] classical martial ways  
**koryu bujutsu** [古流武術] classical martial arts  
**koshi no mawari** [腰の廻] grappling, usually in light armor  
**kowami** [剛身] unarmed grappling  
**kuda yari** [管槍] spear with a sleeve  
**kuden** [口伝] oral teachings  
**kuji** [九字] nine signs; mudra used in esoteric Buddhism  
**kumite** [組手] freestyle sparring in karatedo  
**kumiuchi** [組打] grappling

**Kurama-ryu kenjutsu** [鞍馬流剣術] classical sword tradition  
**kuzushi** [崩] balance-breaking  
**kyuba no michi** [弓馬の道] way of mounted archery, lit. bow and horse; old name for the warrior arts  
**kyudo** [弓道] way of the bow; modern martial art of Japanese archery  
**kyusho** [急所] vital point

## M

**majutsu** [魔術] techniques of invisibility  
**makimono** [巻物] scroll  
**Maniwa Nen-ryu** [馬庭念流] classical sword tradition  
**manrikigusari** [万力鎖] lit. ten thousand power chain; weighted chain  
**Marishiten** [摩利支天] Buddhist warrior goddess  
**meijin** [名人] sage; master; expert  
**menkyo** [免許] license  
**menkyo kaiden** [免許皆伝] license of complete transmission  
**mikkyo** [密教] rituals of esoteric Buddhism  
**mokuroku** [目録] lit. catalog of techniques; transmission scroll or license  
**monomi** [物見] scouting techniques of the Tatsumi-ryu  
**Morishige-ryu hojutsu** [森重流砲術] classical matchlock musketry tradition  
**mudansha** [無段者] lit. non-graded, or below black belt level  
**muga** [無我] egolessness or selflessness  
**mukei bunkazai** [無形文化財] intangible cultural assets  
**munen muso** [無念無想] non-ideational thought; lit. no desires, no thoughts  
**musha shugyo** [武者修行] itinerant training in martial arts  
**mushin** [無心] freedom from discriminative thinking  
**muso** [夢想] dream-vision  
**muso shinden** [夢想神伝] transmission of the dream-vision of the deity

## N

- nagamaki** [長巻] Japanese glaive with a particularly large or heavy blade  
**nagareru** [流れる] to flow  
**naginata** [薙刀] Japanese glaive  
**naginatajutsu** [薙刀術] techniques of the glaive; glaive art  
**nanadan** [七段] rank of 7th degree black belt; also *shichidan*  
**Nihon Kobudo Kyokai**  
[日本古武道協会] Japanese Classical Martial Arts Association  
**Nihon Kobudo Shinkokai**  
[日本古武道振興会] Society for the Promotion of the Japanese Classical Martial Arts  
**ninja** [忍者] mercenary specialists in espionage  
**nitto** [二刀] two swords

## O

- obi** [帯] belt or sash  
**odachi** [大太刀] long sword  
**okuden** [奥伝] inner or hidden transmissions of a ryu  
**okugi** [奥義] secret teachings or principles; also *ogi*  
**omote** [表] front, obvious, overt; opposite of *ura*  
**ongyoho** [隠行法] invisibility  
**Ono-ha Itto-ryu kenjutsu**  
[小野派一刀流剣術] classical sword tradition  
**otome-ryu** [御留流] official, sometimes secret, martial tradition of a clan or domain  
**Owari Kan-ryu sojutsu** [尾張貫流槍術] classical tradition of spearmanship of the Owari domain

## R

- randori** [乱取] freestyle or sparring in judo

- randori-ho** [乱取法] methods of freestyle practice or sparring in judo  
**ronin** [浪人] lit., wave man; warrior unattached to a domain  
**ryu** [流] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryugi*, *ryuha*  
**ryugi** [流儀] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryu*, *ryuha*  
**ryuha** [流派] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryu*, *ryugi*  
**ryuha daihyo** [流派代表] representative of the tradition

## S

- samurai** [侍] Japanese warrior; see *bushi*  
**sansenjin** [三戦神] three war kami; Fudo Myoo, Aizen Myoo, and Marishiten  
**saya** [鞘] Japanese sword scabbard  
**seiryoku zenyo** [精力善用] maximum efficient use of energy  
**seiza** [正座] formal seated position  
**sempai** [先輩] senior  
**sen no sen** [先の先] taking the initiative; also *tai no tai*  
**sensei** [先生] lit. one who was born before; teacher  
**sensen no sen** [先々の先] pre-active, preemptive initiative; *kakari no sen*  
**shiai** [試合] match, competition  
**shihan** [師範] senior instructor  
**shihanke** [師範家] master teacher  
**Shindo Munen-ryu kenjutsu**  
[神道無念流剣術] classical sword tradition  
**Shingyoto-ryu kenjutsu** [心形刀流剣術] classical sword tradition  
**Shinkage-ryu heiho** [新陰流兵法] classical sword tradition  
**shinken** [真剣] true or real sword; live blade

**Shinmuso Hayashizaki-ryu battojutsu**  
[神夢想林崎流抜刀術] classical  
tradition of sword-drawing

**Shin no Shinto-ryu jujutsu**  
[真之神道流柔術] classical jujutsu  
tradition

**shinobi** [忍び] used to refer to agents of  
espionage

**shitsuke** [躰] breeding or training

**shizentai** [自然体] natural body posture

**shubaku** [手搏] term for jujutsu

**shudan sentoho** [集団戦闘法]  
Tatsumi-ryu group-fighting tactics or  
methods

**shugyo** [修行] ascetic training

**shuriken** [手裏剣] throwing darts

**shurikenjutsu** [手裏剣術] techniques  
of throwing darts; throwing-blade art

**siddhi** [Sanskrit] supernatural powers of  
a Buddhist deity

**sogo bujutsu** [総合武術] integrated,  
composite martial arts/systems

**sojutsu** [槍術] techniques of the spear;  
spearsmanship

**soke** [宗家] headmaster

**suhada bujutsu** [素肌武術] martial  
techniques done in street clothes

**suki** [隙] opening

**sumai no sechie** [相撲の節会] ritual  
performances of sumo; Japanese  
traditional wrestling

## T

**tachi** [太刀] Japanese sword; can be a  
general term or can refer to swords  
worn cutting edge down

**tai** [待] static or quiescent waiting

**Takenouchi-ryu** [竹内流] classical  
comprehensive martial tradition

**tameshiai** [試合] mutual testing;  
competing against one's own self

**tankendo** [短剣道] way of the short  
sword; modern adjunct art to jukendo

**tanto** [短刀] knife; dagger; dirk

**tantra** [Sanskrit] Buddhist ritual text  
focused on the cult of a deity

**Tatsumi-ryu** [立身流] classical  
comprehensive martial tradition

**teki** [敵] enemy

**Tendo-ryu naginatajutsu**  
[天道流薙刀術] classical school of  
naginata

**tengu** [天狗] long-nosed goblin; often  
associated with martial prowess

**Tenjin Shinyo-ryu jujutsu**  
[天神真楊流柔術] classical jujutsu  
tradition

**Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto-ryu**  
[天真正伝香取神道流] classical  
comprehensive martial tradition

**tessen** [鉄扇] iron fan

**tessenjutsu** [鉄扇術] iron fan  
techniques; truncheon art using an iron  
fan

**Toda-ha Buko-ryu naginatajutsu**  
[戸田派武甲流薙刀術] classical  
naginata tradition

**tode** [捕手] term for unarmed grappling  
and arrest techniques; jujutsu

**tojutsu** [刀術] techniques of the sword;  
swordsmanship

**tokonoma** [床の間] decorative alcove

**tori** [取] lit., taker; the one who  
executes technique

**torimi** [取身] term for the one who  
takes or executes technique in Tenjin  
Shinyo-ryu

**torite** [取手] term for jujutsu and arrest  
techniques

## U

**uke** [受] lit., receiver; the one on whom  
techniques are executed

**ukemi** [受身] lit., receiving; receiving  
techniques in kata; the one who receives  
a technique in Tenjin Shinyo-ryu

**ura** [裏] reverse, or back; opposite of  
omote

**uwagi** [上着] jacket worn for martial  
arts training

## W

**wakizashi** [脇差] short sword

## Y

**Yagyū Shingan-ryū taijutsu**

[柳生心眼流体術] classical martial tradition centered on grappling

**Yagyū Shinkage-ryū hyōhō**

[柳生新陰流兵法] classical sword tradition

**yari** [槍] spear

**yawara** [柔] term for jujutsu

**yawaragi** [柔技] term for jujutsu

**yoriki** [与力] Tokugawa period law enforcement official

**yoroi kumiuchi** [鎧組打] battlefield grappling in armor

**yoroidoshi** [鎧通し] dagger-like thrusting blade for use against armor

**Yoshin-ryū jujutsu** [楊心流柔術] classical jujutsu tradition

**Yoshin-ryū naginatajutsu**

[楊心流薙刀術] classical tradition of naginata

**yudansha** [有段者] those holding black belt rank

**yugamae** [弓構] posture for shooting a bow

**yumi** [弓] bow; also refers to Japanese archery

## Z

**zanshin** [残心] vigilance upon completion of technique

**zubon** [ズボン] trousers