

## Jodo Report

Jodo (杖道) also known as “the way of the stick,” is a martial art that involves wielding a 3-4 foot wooden staff to defend against sword wielders. The origin of the art lies in a man named Muso Gennousuke, a master in Kenjutsu and Bojutsu (sword and staff wielding respectively). Jodo was developed in order to protect himself against the famous swordsman, Miyamoto Musashi. Because of this, the way of the stick eventually became one of the combat arts of the Kuroda Clan in what is present Fukuoka.

The Seitei Kata, also known as the 12 Standard Forms, were taught in the Jodo class. Not all of the forms were taught to us, but the forms we were taught involved the Jodo wielder holding the stick in the middle in front of the body, sliding it through the fingers and dropping it to the ground, then sliding to the right to avoid the incoming sword being swung at the Jodo wielder. From there, the Jodo wielder grabs the stick with both hands and forms a circular motion while aiming for the wrist of the sword wielder. From there, when the sword wielder raises his/her sword to strike for another hit, the Jodo wielder would have to aim for the sword wielder’s wrist and lowering the stick to point at the sword wielder’s eye line. After this, the sword wielder would lower his/her sword to the ground to surrender, then the Jodo wielder would have to form a triangle-like form with the stick to defend against a possible sudden attack. Once the Jodo wielder would go back to the neutral position (have the stick held to the side). Each person would step back five steps to end the bout. This was all that was taught in class for this semester, and I hope to learn more next semester.